

Mr Smith announces ceasefire and release of detainees

Rhodesian deadlock ended dramatically last night with agreement by Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, that he was willing to accept all black political detainees immediately on an agreement from the nationalists that the guerrilla war will be put off. A constitutional conference will be held "without

any precondition", he said. Accepting that many whites would feel concerned about the future, Mr Smith said there was no parallel with the situation in Mozambique. It was the firm intention of his Government not to deviate from Rhodesia's "standards of civilization".

Constitutional conference 'without preconditions'

Frederick Cleary
UNY, Dec 11
Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, announced last night that the war on Rhodesia's northern border would immediately cease. A constitutional conference will be held "without any precondition", he said. The Rhodesian Government will take place without any precondition. "Accordingly I have agreed to release the African leaders from detention and restriction and their followers as well. They will be permitted to engage in normal activity in terms of the laws applicable to Rhodesians. I am taking this action on the first understanding that everyone concerned will conduct themselves peacefully and within the law. This will, I believe, create the right atmosphere for the holding of a constitutional conference."

Mr Smith said that no doubt some people would feel concerned at the implications of these developments and in the light of events in the past decade this was understandable. However, it was his Government's firm intention to maintain law and order and not to deviate from Rhodesia's standards of civilization.

It was a fallacy, he said, to think that the situation in Rhodesia today was comparable with that which existed in Mozambique before the coup in Portugal last April. The Rhodesian leader gave a warning that although he had accepted in good faith the undertaking that acts of terrorism would cease immediately it might take some time for this to be fully effective. Referring to sanctions, he said it was of the greatest importance that commercial secrets should continue to be safeguarded. Later Sir Roy Welensky, former Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, commended Mr Smith's statement as "realistic". Mr Patrick Bashford, leader of the Centre Party, described it as the best Christmas present Rhodesians of all races could have. But Mr Len Idensu, leader of the right-wing Rhodesia National Party, said the decision was a "complete betrayal of the white man". Mr Smith now had just one question to answer: "When do the terrorists take over?"

Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: Mr Smith's statement was broadcast live on Zambian radio and television—the first time such a thing has happened. An announcement from President Kaunda's office said the Rhodesian African leaders, in Lusaka for the recent talks, would be returning home tomorrow. Our Cape Town Correspondent writes: Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, promised to withdraw South African paramilitary police from Rhodesia as soon as it had been confirmed that terrorism had ended. The white and black people of Rhodesia, he said, must now be left to solve their problems without interference. A. M. Rendel writes: A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said Britain would welcome any move which would contribute to a Rhodesian settlement. Legally and constitutionally, Britain remains responsible for Rhodesia's future. But the official view is that there is no need to be involved in exchanges at this stage.

10 pounds' ruling by judis keeps up pressure on sterling

was heavy selling of the pound yesterday and the Bank of England had to give substantial support to the currency. It was confirmed that Arabia did not "deserve" support for the pound as between \$150m and \$250m. It is believed that about 20 per cent of Arabia's oil payments to Saudi Arabia had previously been made in pounds, the balance being provided in dollars. Page 17

Wilson sees 'a big step ward' in Paris summit

Mr Wilson said that he did not mind associating himself with the principle of European economic and monetary union as an ultimate aim. "We are very many years off that." Communiqué and reactions, page 5

Ford's tax plan shelved

President Ford, who wants a new income tax increase to finance federal spending, has accepted that Congress has no mood to approve this and is keeping an eye on policies to fight unemployment. Page 6

Inequality

Women's many advances, quality is still a long way off and men will continue to be the top jobs in Britain. It is another 20 years, it is estimated in the Government publication *Social Trends*. Page 3

Int talks fail

The failure of last-minute talks between the Nationalist Association and the Shers' Association yesterday, key printing workers were to go ahead with discussions on production, different rates being affected on different days. Page 2

Three buried in house wrecked by electric storm

Three old age pensioners were buried in rubble as an electrical storm wrecked their home yesterday. Mr Harry Wilcock, aged 73, suffered shock and minor injuries and was taken to hospital when the roof of the house in Cecelia Road, Ramsgate, Kent, caved in after being struck by lightning. His wife, May, and Mrs Elizabeth Alexander, a widow, both in their seventies, escaped injury. The storm blacked out Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs. It left a trail of damage in southern counties. The high wind picked up a 150-ton Boeing 707 at Heathrow airport, London, and threw it against a 747 jumbo jet parked nearby. An official said both suffered severe damage.

Reynolds's Sterne offered to nation

By Philip Howard

The superb portrait of Laurence Sterne by Sir Joshua Reynolds is being offered to the National Portrait Gallery. It shows the great master of English humour, on whose lips wit, paradox, and digression hung as confetti, bang on other men's lips, sitting with sardonic head propped on hand with forefinger raised to catch a red herring. It was painted in 1750, at the height of Sterne's sudden fame after the publication of the first instalment of *Tristram Shandy*. The book was the talk of London, and Sterne was three weeks deep in dinner engagements. Garrick and Hogarth befriended him, and arranged for the portrait of the man of the hour to be painted by the artist of the day. Sterne, exhausted by being lionized, dropped his head into his hand for the sittings, and shifted his wig slightly awry, as he did when writing. The artist took no fee for his work, which was sold for 500 guineas in 1840 to Lord Lansdowne, and was until recently part of the great Lansdowne collection. It is now being offered to the nation for £50,000. Mr Kenneth Monkman, honorary secretary of the Laurence Sterne Trust, based



The tired Sterne with head resting on hand.

in Sterne's rambling old rectory at Cowdrey, Yorkshire, said yesterday: "It is a marvellous bargain. Not only is it Reynolds's finest work, but it is the most vivid, living, speaking portrait of any of the great English novelists before photography was invented."

Future of social contract depends on miners

By Paul Routledge

The future of the social contract hangs in the balance today. It rests on slender hopes that miners' leaders will not endorse their negotiators' militant pay ambitions. The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers will discuss the recommendation of the negotiating team that the coal board should be asked for an increase of £30 a week across the board for 270,000 miners, payable in two stages. Miners were warned yesterday not to count on the backing of the Labour movement if they pushed their claim outside the terms of the social contract. Left-wing leaders will be under pressure by the appeal from Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, to sacrifice their sectional interests to save the contract. Despite the disapproval of senior members of the TUC economic committee, if the miners take industrial action in support of a militant

pay demand they will get the backing of their traditional allies, the trade unionists. That became clear last night when Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), which abstained on the critical vote about wage restraint at the Trades Union Congress three months ago, promised that foot-placers would not cross official NUM picket lines in the event of a pay dispute. A deeply political clash is inevitable at this morning's meeting of the miners' union to consider this, and we hope they will have very much in mind the request put clearly to their negotiators that they should take full account of the possible consequences of their claim and eventual settlement on working people, trade unionists and the economy as a whole. Just as the movement rallied to the support of the miners in 1972 and 1974, it is reasonable to look to the miners, as historically we have

Return of the death penalty rejected by 152 on free vote

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

The demand for restoration of the death penalty for terrorist murders was defeated in the Commons last night by 369 votes to 217, a majority of 152. Early in the debate there were signs that many MPs were still wavering and that some were having second thoughts after the early emotional reaction to the Birmingham bombings. Not since 1969, when the substantive decision was taken to abolish the death penalty, has the House debated the issue under such pressure from outside opinion. In spite of that, Mr Brian Walden, Labour MP for Birmingham, Labour MP for Birmingham, opened the debate with a courageous rebuttal of the case for restoration of capital punishment. Moving a motion declaring that the death penalty would neither deter terrorists nor increase the safety of the public, Mr Walden said the House should speak out clearly and set at rest all speculation about its intentions. The greatest deterrent against political terrorism was the same as that against any crime; the probability of apprehension. The recent widespread arrests would do more to reassure the public than any scaffold they might build, Mr Walden said. It mattered not one jot whether one hanged the terrorist murderer, executed him by firing squad, put him in an electric chair or gave him a lethal injection; one could not paint or varnish over a judicial execution to make it appear other than what it was, a cold-blooded act of the state to take a life. Public opinion, Mr Walden conceded, must be a matter of grave concern for MPs but no

member should surrender to his constituents' judgment simply because he feared that the expression of his convictions might prove unpopular outside the House. Those who voted against the death penalty would be putting sense and reason above passion. They would be acting in the interests of a victory not purchased at an unacceptable price, a victory not simply for our policies but for our values without which policies were meaningless. With a free vote on both sides of the House, every MP speaking for himself, Sir Keith Joseph, shadow Home Secretary, was the first to speak from either front bench. Declaring himself as having previously been against capital punishment for murder, he said terrorism was a different matter. War had been declared on us, and the alternative to winning was to lose and to expose our people to greater horrors. Mr Len Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, said that far from the death penalty being a deterrent, it was in many cases a positive attraction. The IRA wanted a world audience as they staged their psychopathic theatre. From the Liberal benches, Mr Howson said restoration of the death penalty for terrorism would be doing more harm than good to the state. An amendment urging the death penalty for acts of terrorism causing death was moved by Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston. She said that terrorists had declared war on the country and were carrying out indiscriminate murder on innocent, harmless and unarmed people. Appeasement represented surrender to these people. Parliamentary report, page 7

Shots fired after West End club bombing

Three taxi drivers chased two men through the West End of London last night, after a bomb was tossed into the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly. Their cars were struck by bullets from a pistol as the bombers fled. One cab had a window smashed, and another had its radiator punctured. A parked van was hit as well. But the cabbies kept up their chase until the men disappeared among the crowds. One of the three drivers, who refused to give his name, said he saw the bomb hurled through a window of the club. "I was going along Piccadilly when it happened, and had to stop because of the traffic," he said. "I saw one of them throw something into the club. They looked like a couple of kids messing about, and walked on a few yards and stopped. Suddenly we heard the explosion. I guessed what had happened."

Three cabs, one in front of him and one behind, chased the men into Half Moon Street, where the shots were fired, then lost them in Curzon Street. The driver, aged about 35, went on: "I had two passengers in my cab at the time, a boy and a girl. We were about halfway up the street when the men stopped and fired one or two shots. One of them had a hand gun of some sort. We heard two big bangs and saw a flash." Police sealed off Green Park and searched the area with dogs, but failed to find the men. The explosion caused extensive damage to the Long Bar at the club, where seven people were sitting. They managed to get out before the explosion, but the barman was taken to St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, with shock and later released. Scotland Yard said it was believed that only the detonator, not the charge, exploded. One taxi driver later went to Vine Street police station with two teenage girls who are believed to have given eye-witness accounts. Commander Robert Huntley, of the Bomb Squad, said later that the device weighed in at 2lb. It was the first time a member of the public had "had a go" in such circumstances, and showed "marvellous public spirit". "If members of the public do wish to have a go, it's up to them, but I don't advocate that," he added. "Leave it to the professionals."



Eduardo de Filippo, author

Author hits at Zeffirelli production

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Dec 11
A rueful Eduardo de Filippo ascribes the failure in New York of his play *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* to Franco Zeffirelli's failure to understand, in his production, either what the play requires from the director or what American audiences look for. This raises the point of why Signor de Filippo was so happy with the London production of the play which was also directed by Zeffirelli and has enjoyed a solid year of success. In an interview today he made no secret of the fact that he was in favour of transferring the London production, done originally for the National, to New York. But the National Theatre, he said, insisted on selling the rights to Americans and he could do nothing more than express his disagreement. "Now the National will suffer a big financial loss because after a Broadway failure, a film of the same play is almost out of the question, and so the National will lose the 40 per cent share which they would have had from the film rights, a substantial sum." It was at first a comfort to him to know, he said, that Signor Zeffirelli would once again be directing the play and he himself set down to producing *Don Pasquale* in Chicago while rehearsals began of his play in New York. He saw the dress rehearsal. "I did not recognize this saraband of shouting, circus gags and hysteria as mine," he said. "Afterwards I spoke energetically to Zeffirelli. I remember saying to him, with regard to the song by di Giacomo, which he had put at the beginning of the first act: 'You should have put a piece from Currier, as this is less a play than a bullfight.'"

The New York critics echoed what he told Zeffirelli that day: "A family of madmen of no interest to anyone, shouting at each other for no reason at all, eating throughout the three acts." Continued on page 6, col 1



Franco Zeffirelli, director

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HOME NEWS

Disruption of Fleet Street papers ordered after last-minute peace talks fail

By Alan Hamilton
Labour Staff

Disruption of national newspaper publication by key printing workers is to go ahead after the failure of last-minute peace talks between the National Graphical Association and the newspaper publishers yesterday.

The NGA, which represents 5,000 skilled printers in the London and Manchester offices of national papers, and in the two London evenings, has stopped short of calling an all-out strike. Instead it has ordered a campaign of disruptive action. Different newspapers would be affected on different nights.

The union is taking the action in pursuit of an improved pay offer from the Newspaper Publishers' Association. The publishers' offer of a 5 per cent increase from October, plus another 2 per cent from next April, has been accepted by the other five unions represented in newspaper printing houses.

But the NGA argues that to accept the same offer would disturb traditional differentials by up to 40p a week.

Mr Joseph Wade, a deputy general secretary of the NGA, said after meeting the publishers yesterday: "We are all set now to press the button for action immediately. Instructions have already been sent out to our members; we are better organized this time than before."

Last week the NGA agreed to delay its action for a week to allow the publishers to make approaches to the TUC. Lord Goodman, the publishers' chairman, had a meeting with Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, on Tuesday, at which he

gave a warning of the danger to employment of other Fleet Street workers should the NGA action go ahead.

On previous occasions Lord Goodman has stated that if publication of national papers was interrupted by NGA action some papers might never reappear.

In a reply to Lord Goodman yesterday Mr Murray made clear that he could not intervene in the dispute, although he expressed the hope that the NGA would feel able to settle on the same terms as the other unions. Mr Murray's letter says:

I am writing to confirm what I told you when you met me here with other representatives of the NGA at your request to inform me about the origin and possible consequences of your dispute with the National Graphical Association. I share your concern at the possibility that a stoppage of work would not only interrupt the publication of newspapers, but possibly jeopardize future employment in the industry and have caused considerable anxiety. The TUC could be of assistance, but have reached the conclusion that there is no in practice any way in which the TUC could intervene to help resolve the dispute with the NGA, which is not in membership of the TUC.

The settlement which was very recently reached with the other five unions concerned, which are affiliated to the TUC, has of course been welcomed by the TUC as being within the social contract, and I hope that the National Graphical Association, by its reflection, feel able to accept the suggestion that it should settle on the same basis as those unions, while preserving its right to raise in future negotiations the question of differentials.

As I told you at the meeting, I hope that a way can be found in the near future of restoring the NGA to affiliation to the TUC, when the Association will be able to play its full part in the TUC Printing Industry Committee, which will shortly be established.

After meeting Mr Wade and Mr John Bonfield, the NGA general secretary, yesterday, the NPA issued a statement saying that it was still unable to meet the NGA's demand for maintenance of differentials.

The statement said that the differential question affected only a minority of NGA members involved in the pay claim, but any adjustment, however small, would disturb the agreement with the other unions. It added:

The NPA would wish the public to be aware that they regard it as wholly irresponsible for any industrial action to be taken against the national newspaper industry as a result of a dispute of this character. It is the NPA's belief that it has exhausted every channel of conciliation, having already approached the conciliation service set up by the Government.

The statement added that NGA members involved in the dispute now earn between £75 and £95 a week.

The first newspaper to be affected yesterday was the London Evening News. A work-to-rule by some members of the NGA there caused production delays, and van drivers stopped work to hold a meeting because they alleged that the delay was affecting overtime earnings.

Mr Howard French, editorial director of the Evening News, said the trouble started with an unofficial go-slow by composing room staff.

'Let paper print thalidomide article'

The Sunday Times should be allowed to publish an article on the Distillers' Company's alleged liability for thalidomide, even though to do so might be breaking the law, Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, said yesterday in a letter to the Attorney General.

"An injunction was granted preventing The Sunday Times from publishing, but as the Phillimore committee recommendations repudiate the basis of that judgment I hope you will take immediate action in this case," the letter said.

The Phillimore committee, which proposes clarification and liberalizing of the law of contempt, was of profound significance to the British press, Mr Ashley said. He urged Mr Silkin not to await legislation and not to oppose publication of the article.

Signalmen urged to call off unofficial strike

Mr Richard Marsh, chairman of the Railways Board, yesterday appealed to signalmen not to halt trains in Essex and Kent today.

He acknowledged that recent pay reorganization had upset the signalmen and could have altered individual pay differentials. But top signalmen were within the highest paid range and the average weekly earnings of the lowest grade, including weekend pay and overtime, had increased by 27 per cent, to £56, he said.

The signalmen say they were unfairly treated by an agreement accepted recently by the rail unions. They were due to strike unofficially for 24 hours from six o'clock this morning. Trains to Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street, and some in Kent would be affected. Mr Marsh said the men were causing unnecessary disruption and inconvenience. He added: "Both the management and the National Union of Railwaymen appeal to them to discontinue their action and honour the constitutional procedures between the board and the unions."

Hanging is bad politically and morally, criminologist says

By Peter Evans

Reintroduction of capital punishment would be a national disaster, Sir Leon Radzwinowicz, one of the world's foremost criminologists and a former member of the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment, said yesterday, before the Commons vote on hanging.

He said: "It would be bad psychologically, morally and politically; bad for the international reputation of Britain; bad for the cohesiveness and traditions of society; and bad for the effective solution of the Irish question."

Sir Leon was speaking in an interview on the eve of a reception, to be held tonight, by Lord Butler of Saffron Walden in the House of Lords, to mark the publication of a volume of essays on criminology in honour of Sir Leon.

The contributors include professors from Britain, the United States, Italy, Poland, Denmark, Germany and Norway, as well as from Britain, France and South Africa; and Sir Leon's former colleagues, students and visiting fellows at Cambridge. Sir Leon retired recently as Wolfson Professor of Criminology.

Lord Butler, who writes in the essays about the founding of the institute, as Home Secretary provided the impetus that helped to make it possible. The title of the volume, *Crime, Criminology and Public Policy*, reflects the impact both of the institute's studies and Sir Leon's career.

It is far from finished. Sir Leon is engaged on an extensive programme of teaching in American law schools, and is travelling the world as a consultant.

Sir Leon sees the growth of terrorist violence as feeding other kinds of violent crime. He said: "If you have a society passing through intense political strife, with violence connected with it, you will have violence connected with crime in unarticulated harmony."

"If you have an emergency system that is longer than necessary, if it lasts a long time, it must also affect the whole system of criminal justice. The moral tone of society affects everything, both criminal justice and the forms of violence."

"Criminal law and punishment have a limited effect. I do not say they are useless. But



Sir Leon Radzwinowicz: "Excessive punishment, excessive effect."

you cannot expect criminal law to solve the moral and political problems of society. Capital punishment cannot solve the Irish issue."

"If the criminal law goes too far in respect of capital punishment, or any kind of excessive punishment, it will produce an excessive effect." Changes in criminal procedure might well accentuate political difficulties. "In the democracies, we must look for a political solution to political problems."

But order had to be maintained, he continued. There must be a strong police force,

and the police must act within the province of the law.

It was crucial to have a law that was both strong and moderate, Sir Leon said. "Get rid of a lot of the prison system and keep it for the hard core and make it a civilized affair."

"We must get accustomed to a very high level of violent crime that is part of the high level of general crime. Crime will continue to rise as far as we can see."

Crime, Criminology and Public Policy, Essays in Honour of Sir Leon Radzwinowicz, edited by Sir Roger Hood (Heinemann, £12.50).

IRA threat of 'two to one' reprisal hangings

Hamburg, Dec. 11.—Mr D. O'Connell, chief of staff of Provisional IRA is to be quizzed tomorrow as saying, on the of the Commons vote on capital punishment, that his organization would hang two British soldiers for every IRA man hanged in Britain.

That would continue, O'Connell says in the magazine *Stern*, "until the British in."

The magazine said it interviewed Mr O'Connell at a rendezvous outside Dublin distributed the text of the interview today to news agencies saying that it would appear in the magazine tomorrow.

In the interview Mr O'Connell denied IRA involvement in cent bombings in Britain including those in Birmingham which killed 21.

He is quoted as saying: "IRA leadership did not recommend these attacks. In fact condemn them. At the moment we are conducting a det inquiry to seek out those possible."

"In England there are anarchist groups like the A Brigade or Red Hand 74. P. blamed the IRA for the J. Tower of London blast, were wrong. That was caused by a group which I want to name yet."

"If IRA members had tried such attacks would be court-martialled could face the death penalty," Mr O'Connell said.

"The IRA has clear lines for waging its war. attack on non-military institutions must be preceded by a warning so that no civilian are endangered. Attacks like those in Birmingham are murder."

Mr O'Connell is quoted as saying that peace between Britain and the IRA is possible given certain conditions.

They were phoned in from Northern Ireland and general amnesty for political prisoners in England. Prisons as well as Catholics, a public declaration by the British that the Irish people will be allowed to decide their future.—Reuter.

Irish youth drew bomb circuits 'out of boredom'

An Irish youth accused of conspiring to cause explosion told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had been bored. He had learnt to draw bomb circuits in the R.I.C. in Ireland for amusement.

Michael MacLochlainn, 17, of Bogside, Londonderry, said in a statement from dock that he came to Britain after leaving prison in February, but not to bombs or select targets.

He said: "I attempted to conceal my identity as I did not want the police to know my presence in this country, cause of my having been previously involved in the struggle for the right of Irish people self-determination."

He and John Coughlan, 27, of Tullamore, Offaly, pleaded not guilty to conspiring to cause explosions. Mr Coughlan, who was jailed in Dublin for possessing explosives ammunition, said he came to Britain to get away from harassment. He used a pseudonym because his conviction might make things difficult. The trial continues today.

Life sentence

Thomas McClure, aged 34, Belfast sheet-metal worker, jailed for life yesterday for murdering two Catholic brothers during the Ulster Workers' Council strike in May.

He pleaded guilty to the murder of Sean Byrne, aged 54, owner of the Wayside Hair public house near Ballymena, and his brother Brendan, aged 45.

Littlejohn brother retaken in Birmingham

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Kenneth Littlejohn, who escaped from Mountjoy prison, Dublin, nine months ago, was arrested by West Midlands police in Birmingham yesterday. I understand that detectives surrounded a house in Alum Rock and Mr Littlejohn surrendered quietly.

Detective Chief Superintendent Harry Robinson, head of the CID, said last night: "Littlejohn has now been detained following very extensive inquiries extending over a period of time. We have many other inquiries to make and we have been in touch with Dublin police."

Asked when Mr Littlejohn would be appearing before the court Mr Robinson said: "Certain formalities will have to be gone through."

It is understood that after the raid on the house two other men left with police officers and are assisting inquiries. The police are anxious to know how long Mr Littlejohn has been in the city.

Extradition warrant: The Dublin authorities said last night that several Irish policemen would go to Birmingham today with an extradition warrant for Mr Littlejohn (a Staff Reporter writes). The bank robber and self-confessed British agent escaped on March 11 after serving eight months of a 20-year sentence. Part of the robbery of £67,000 from Allied Irish Banks in Dublin in October, 1972.

Mr Littlejohn's brother, Keith, who is serving 15 years for his part in the robbery, is to appeal next year against the dismissal by the Dublin High Court of proceedings in which he sought to have his sentence quashed.

Christopher Walker writes: The recapture will reopen controversy about the exact nature of Mr Littlejohn's involvements with the British intelligence services.

The Littlejohn affair has been a continuing source of embarrassment to the British Government. There is incontrovertible evidence that he had connections with British intelligence, but it has never been satisfactorily established that he was paid to act as an agent provocateur in the Republic of Ireland.

Lucan nursemaid inquest

The inquest on Mrs Sandra Rivett, nursemaid to the children of Lord and Lady Lucan, was adjourned until next March yesterday by Dr Gavin Thurston, the Westminster coroner. No witnesses were called.

At the previous hearing Mrs Rivett, who was 29, was said to have died from head injuries in an incident at Lady Lucan's home in Lower Belgrave Street, Westminster. Two warrants have been issued against Lord Lucan, alleging that he murdered Mrs Rivett and attempted to murder his wife.

Church leaders in Ulster plead for end to killings

From Robert Fisk Belfast

Leaders of the four main churches in both parts of Ireland are today launching what they describe as a joint peace campaign, directed at moderates and at every gunman and bomber and all who advocate or indulge in violence.

Apparently prompted by the sectarian murders, the political vacuum and potential war weariness in both communities, the churches are advertising in newspapers and holding special services to emphasize their unity of opposition to violence.

A letter to all churches in the province appealing for prayers for peace has been signed by Cardinal Conway, Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Temple Lundy, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Rev Desmond Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Church of Ireland Primate, Dr Simms.

The churches say they do not see their function as negotiators and are not trying to replace political representatives. A joint statement says the campaign is aimed at the entire population, and that it is the churches' duty to speak now, and in unison.

The psychological moment to take this initiative is now "when the appalling realities of the situation are more widely recognized than ever before."

That is an obvious reference to the Birmingham bombings, which may have helped to prompt the religious campaign.

Sources close to one of the churches involved, however, suggested yesterday that the somewhat non-assertive policies adopted by Mr Rees, the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, may also have concerned the religious leaders.

The church statement says the four "feel there is such a sickening revulsion everywhere against violence, such a sense of unutterable shame on Ireland's name, and such a grim foreboding of a drift into something much worse still, that the campaign is essential and urgently compelling."

Flight out: The Army has been forced to cut the number of flights undertaken by almost half its helicopter fleet in Northern Ireland because of a shortage of spare parts. The 15 or so Scout helicopters, many of which are used for patrols along the border, are being maintained with equipment from aircraft in other parts of the United Kingdom. All units in the province have been told not to fly Scouts unnecessarily.

The instruction says that only essential operational tasks should be undertaken. It was sent from headquarters at Loughborough over a month ago, and is also believed to contain a warning that if the shortage worsens restrictions may be imposed on flying time. The restriction might be put at a maximum of 60 hours a month for each machine.

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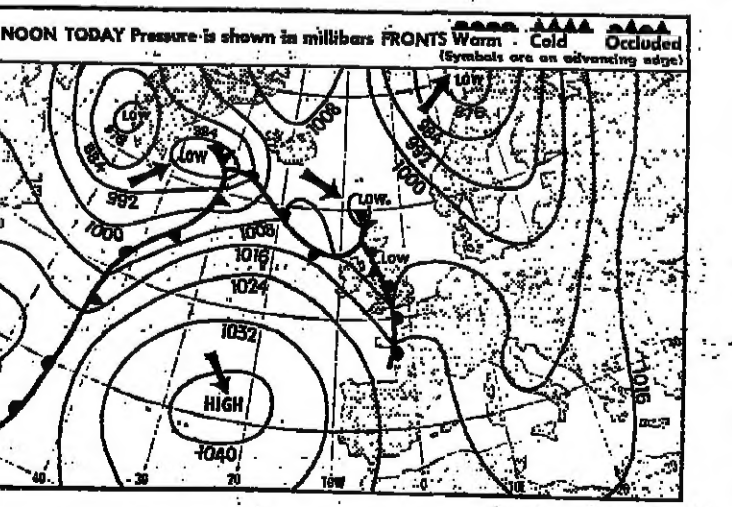
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The instruction says that only essential operational tasks should be undertaken. It was sent from headquarters at Loughborough over a month ago, and is also believed to contain a warning that if the shortage worsens restrictions may be imposed on flying time. The restriction might be put at a maximum of 60 hours a month for each machine.

Weather forecast and recordings



Sum rises: 7.57 am. Sun sets: 3.52 pm. Moon rises: 6.42 am. Moon sets: 2.59 pm.

New Moon: Tomorrow. Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.28 am. High water: London Bridge, 12.24 am, 6.5m (22.5ft); 12.46 pm, 6.7m (22.1ft). Ayr, 12.5m (41.0ft); Dover, 9.52 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 10.21 pm, 6.3m (20.8ft); Hull, 4.45 am, 6.9m (22.6ft); 5.10 pm, 7.0m (23.0ft); Liverpool, 10.2 am, 8.4m (27.5ft); 10.25 pm, 8.3m (27.1ft).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; ss, snow.

A depression will move SE towards Scotland and an associated trough of low pressure will move very slowly S over the British Isles.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, E, England, E, Anglia: Mainly dry, at first, becoming generally cloudy with periods of sleet or snow, probably turning to rain later, moderate falls of snow in places; S or SW, moderate; max temp 3 or 4°C (37 to 39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Rain or drizzle at times with possibly further snow in E at first; brighter, showery weather.

YESTERDAY: London: Temp.: max., 6 am to 10 am, 7°C (45°F); min., 11 pm to 5 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity: 67 to 71 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.9in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 5.5 h. Bar. mean sea-level, 6 pm 101 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Energy saving

A LOAN SCHEME FOR INDUSTRY

The Department of Energy has a new loan scheme for industry to encourage the more efficient use of all forms of energy.

Short term loans up to £100,000 are available.

Examples of the type of energy saving project which qualify are:

- measures to reduce heat loss in industrial buildings
- replacement or renovation of machinery, plant and equipment
- introduction of new automatic control devices
- installation of heat exchangers and pre-heaters to make use of waste heat
- installation of combined heat and power schemes

Projects must promise sufficient energy savings to cover capital and interest in four years.

The scheme is for industrial premises in Great Britain but does not apply to Northern Ireland.

If you would like full details about this new loan scheme for industry, send the coupon below to:

Department of Energy, Energy Saving Loan Scheme, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

Please send me details of the Energy Saving Loan Scheme for industry. (USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

NAME

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HOME NEWS

Houghton committee likely to recommend 30 per cent pay increases for teachers

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

The Houghton committee of inquiry into teachers' pay and their professional structure is likely to recommend very large increases for teachers who make teaching their career and for head teachers.

The average increase for Britain's 500,000 teachers is likely to be about 30 per cent; the same as that awarded last September to the nurses. It will be backdated to May 24 and will cost about £400m. It will be paid out of a special interim order on the rate-support grant.

The committee of 10 is meeting almost every day to put the final touches to the report, which the members expect to sign on Sunday night. It is likely to be presented to Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science and Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, on Tuesday.

The Department of Education and Science will publish the report as quickly as possible, probably on Thursday or Friday next week.

The Houghton recommendations will be subject to negotiation within the global sum of £400m by the Burnham committee, which negotiates teachers' salaries in England and Wales, and by the Scottish Teachers Salaries Committee. The Houghton committee is likely to recommend fairly modest increases for junior teachers, and a thorough overhaul of the structure of the teaching profession, the teachers' salary structure, and graded posts. The

effect will be to widen the salary gap between teachers at different stages of their career, and to induce them to stay in the profession.

The pay of lecturers in polytechnics would be increased to bring them more into line with rates for university dons. Head teachers could expect increases above 30 per cent. They have been hardly treated.

It would give parents and teachers the right to be represented on school boards and managements and seek to encourage schools to set up parent-teacher associations.

The party has also formed a legal committee under Mr Leon Brittan, MP for Cleveland and Whitby, a barrister, to advise local authorities and parents' associations that wish to preserve grammar schools. Miss Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth, Drake, is chairing a group investigating standards of education and conduct at state schools.

Dr Keith Hampson, MP for Ripon, is chairing a study group examining teachers' pay as at May 24, 1974. Teachers' unions will no doubt base higher claims on cost-of-living increases since then.

Tory campaign: The Conservative Party launched a campaign for research and action on education policy yesterday. Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Opposition spokesman on education, said in London: "By losing the election in October, Conservatives have lost a battle but not the educational war."

Mr William Shelton, vice-chairman of the Conservatives' parliamentary education com-

mittee, will introduce a parents' charter Bill in Parliament on April 25.

It seeks to change the Education Act of 1944, placing the onus on local education authorities to take account of parents' wishes when assigning children to schools. It will also seek an appellate tribunal for parents who think they have been badly treated.

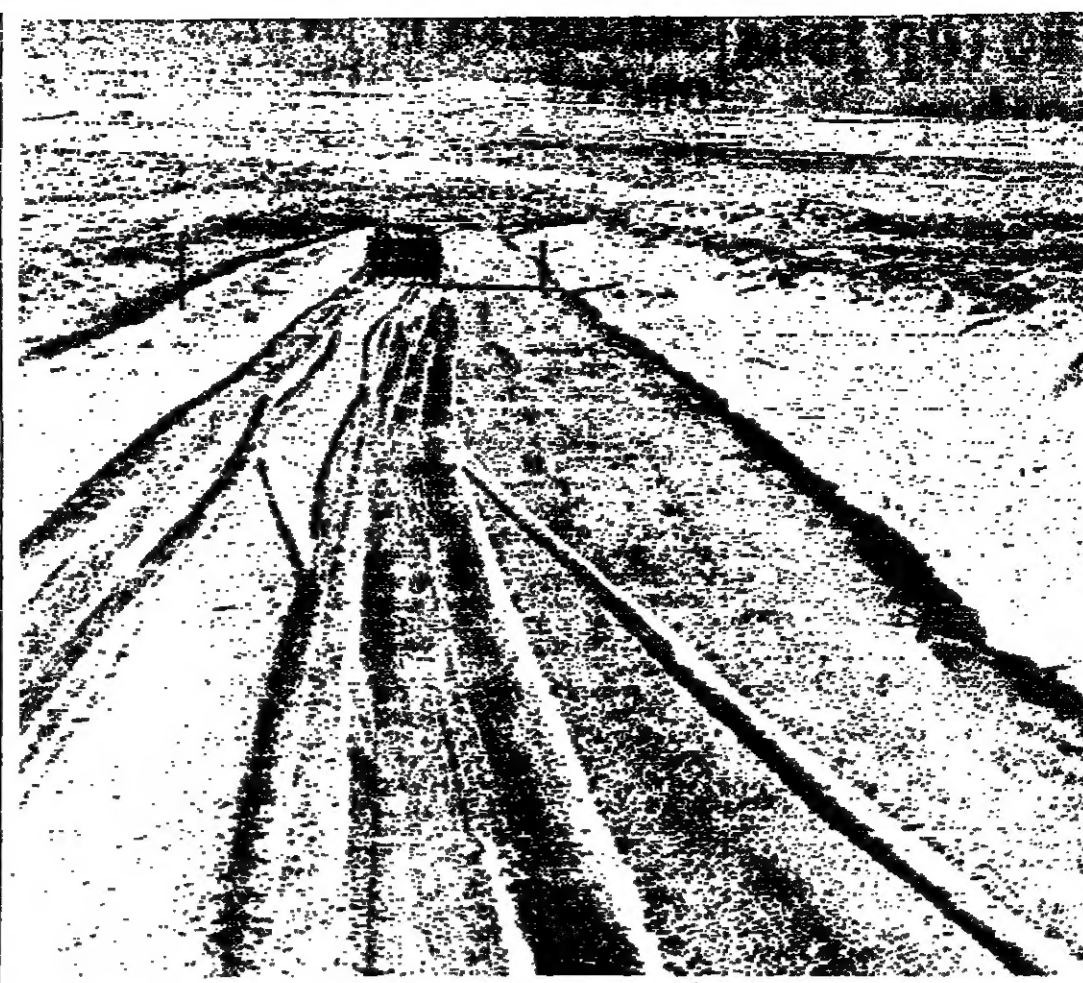
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Snow in the Cleveland Hills, Yorkshire, yesterday.

Hint of new incentive plan after coal talks

From Ronald Kershaw
Newcastle upon Tyne

Strong indications that the National Coal Board is preparing another productivity incentive scheme emerged after a meeting between Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the board, and representatives of the unions in the mining industry at Gateshead, Tyneside, yesterday.

Sir Derek would not commit himself on the board's future pay attitudes or comment on proposals for a new pay claim to be placed before the national executive of the National Union of Mineworkers today.

The meeting, a joint productivity conference, was the first of a series in the coalfields called on the initiative of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council to discuss ways of increasing productivity and productivity. Sir Derek said: "There has to be a re-examination of productivity to see if some alternative scheme can be devised, and it must be done quickly." He would not say whether such a scheme would be prepared in time to meet the next miners' claim.

Mr Gormley's appeal: Mr Gormley, president of the NUM, yesterday appealed to miners to keep their side of their bargain with the Government by meeting this year's production target (the Press Association reports). The target of 120 million tons was set as much by the union as by the NCB, he said.

"Your union fought for this figure as being realistic and an indication to the people of Britain that the coal industry and the men working in it can deliver the goods," he said in this month's union journal, *The Miner*.

Test of contract: The main test for the social contract was still to come, Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, declared in a party political broadcast last night (our Political Staff writes). Its future would depend, he said, on what happened in particular negotiations in the next six to eight months.

The great majority of workers covered by agreements had kept within the guidelines since pay controls were lifted in July. But the National Union of Mineworkers' approach to its settlement would be of the first importance.

By next June or July the Government would have had time to carry out more of its part of the social contract, but the immediate task was how to overcome the problems of this winter. There the guidelines of the contract were crucial.

Conservative oil specialists say there has been a serious loss of momentum in the extraction programme since the Government's flat-rate tax was announced.

The Government's main means of raising revenue from offshore oilfields, and the Opposition argued on second reading that it would not take enough from the rich prolific fields while destroying the incentive to explore and develop marginal fields.

Conservative oil specialists say there has been a serious loss of momentum in the extraction programme since the Government's flat-rate tax was announced.

The prior-charge tax will be

Opposition frontbenchers believe the Government is changing its mind and considering a variable rate for the prior-charge tax in the Oil Taxation Bill. That is their interpretation of an amendment tabled for the committee stage governing the order in which parts of the Bill will be considered. The new tax will be introduced next January, thus allowing time for second thoughts.

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Cash for hill farms to move cattle to shelter

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

The Government yesterday offered to pay upland farmers who move livestock off the hills this winter to protect them from malnutrition through shortage of feed. It also said it would meet debts of farmers who defaulted on loans of up to three years incurred in meeting the costs of winter keep. Diagnoses from government livestock experts will be available free.

That was the essence of the long-awaited plan from Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, to meet the combination of a shortage of fodder and increase in the livestock population. The Government is ready to pay hill farmers £15 a head towards the cost of wintering animals in lowland areas for not less than two months. Loans will be underwritten to a level equivalent to the present hill farm subsidy.

Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the plan would do little to help upland farmers.

The case arose out of a book published by Mr Isorni in 1967, entitled *The Real Trial of Jesus*.

The Government has set up a working party to examine the development of housing co-operatives and tenant participation in housing management.

Mr Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction, announced yesterday in a parliamentary written reply.

The group, under the chairmanship of Mr Harold Campbell, chairman of the Sutton Housing Trust, will report on ways in which central and local government can foster the co-operatives and greater tenant participation.

Delegates representing 90,000 provincial company busmen yesterday accepted a pay settlement giving them a basic weekly wage of at least £30.60. The transport union will now urge its 4,000 members in Scotland to end their four-week unofficial strike.

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WEST EUROPE

Nato rejects Dutch plan to cut back on tactical nuclear arms

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 11

A Dutch suggestion to reduce the role of tactical nuclear weapons in the defence of Western Europe received no support at the meeting today of the Nato Defence Planning Committee.

The allies seem to object not so much to the idea of reducing any "undue dependence" upon tactical weapons as to the timing of the Dutch suggestion and the way it has been put forward.

There seems to have been a general feeling at the meeting that some day the whole subject of tactical nuclear weapons might well have to be introduced into the talks on mutual balanced force reductions in Vienna. But the time is not now.

Both Mr Mason, the British Defence Secretary, and Dr Schlesinger, his American counterpart, emphasized the importance of maintaining Nato's triad of forces. This consists of strategic nuclear weapons, conventional forces, and the 7,000 allied tactical nuclear weapons, most of them American, in Europe.

All three had to be strong and well balanced, Mr Mason told the meeting, and each had to be buttressed by the other two. By lowering the emphasis on tactical weapons at this stage, they would risk upsetting the balance of the three.

On the one hand it might expose Nato to the use of nuclear weapons by the other side and on the other hand it might bring closer the possibility of the strategic deterrent.

Mr Mason also referred to United States examination of tactical nuclear stockpile in the light of the Vienna negotiations.

This might mean reduction of the numbers of such weapons. But if so, they should take multilaterally, not as a unilateral decision in Washington. And they should be made in advance of any agreement at the Vienna negotiations.

Dr Schlesinger, at a conference in Brussels, was questioned about the importance of maintaining Nato's conventional capabilities. He said, "The Soviet Union, which has a conventional force which is the only one to have a position to deal with."

He pointed out that the Dutch suggestion was not a formal proposal, but an idea to be discussed in the future.

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Rise in baby battering 'is linked to illegitimacy'

By Our Medical Correspondent

The change in society's attitude to extramarital sexual activity may be more important than poverty or poor housing in causing the present frequency of assaults on babies by their parents, a psychiatrist reports.

The assaults are closely associated with both illegitimacy and teenage parenthood and the rise in those conditions in the past two decades has probably led to an increase in child abuse, according to Dr Selwyn Smith, lecturer in psychiatry at Birmingham University.

Dr Smith has been studying the causes of assaults on babies for several years and his latest report, in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, is based on interviews with the parents of 134 battered children under the age of five.

Compared with the parents of other children admitted to hospital as emergency cases, the parents of battered children were less often married. More than two-thirds of the mothers had become pregnant while single, and a third of the children were illegitimate. More than half those mothers had given birth to their first child while still teenagers, compared with the national average of 10 per cent.

He rejects suggestions that better training for motherhood, ready availability of contraceptives, and abortion on demand could be useful in preventing child abuse.

What is needed, he suggests, is a reversal of those attitudes to sex and the family which are responsible for increasing rates of illegitimacy.

No bar on child-killer caring for family

John Auckland, who killed two of his baby daughters in six years, could take custody of his remaining two children on release from prison, Mr Derek Clephan, legal adviser to Bransley council, Yorkshire, said yesterday.

Mr Auckland was jailed for 18 months in 1968 for killing one daughter aged nine weeks. Last May, after his wife had left him, social workers allowed him custody of his three other children. In July he battered another daughter,

EUROPEAN SUMMIT

French press sceptical of achievements at summit meeting

by Charles Hargrove

So much cold water was poured on the Paris summit for it was held that the French press and public opinion find it difficult to believe it really accomplished anything substantial. This impression is reinforced by the rather diplomatic language used in the long final communiqué dealing with the more controversial issues discussed. When President Giscard d'Estaing read out to a crowd of journalists late last night, convoluted text on the need for a revision of the budgetary contribution in an "unacceptable situation", he was greeted with a se of laughter.

The emphasis in the French on the "modest" or "limited" results of the summit betrays nostalgia for the spectacular summits of the past, with promises of a European economic and monetary union tomorrow, and a political union the day after, the shrewdness of which became apparent as weeks and months went by.

His was precisely what Giscard d'Estaing set out to avoid. In his opinion it is a very useful summit. The fact that it took place in the important view of the ailing scepticism; that it set in train the machinery of regular, unspectacular work-meetings of heads of government was a great asset for the future of the European community.

In the absence of anything spectacular, the clash between Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Wilson was played up out of proportion in the press. There

was a sharp exchange of words and the Prime Minister said what he had to say in the way he did, mainly, it is felt here, for domestic consumption.

It was not by accident, the suggestion is, that his Churchillian sortie was in time to catch the evening newspapers in Britain. But after that, both sides moved towards a compromise solution.

It was a genuine compromise, with no victor or vanquished. The French Government moved from its position of principle that there could be no revision of the budgetary contributions laid down in the Treaty of Accession.

The British Government abandoned its insistence on a direct link between the contribution and the gross domestic product, while repeating that it respected the Community principle of "own resources", and did not wish to renegotiate either the Treaty of Rome or the Treaty of Accession.

This had done before, but it was useful to say it in black and white in the agreed communiqué.

The formula agreed is a procedural one. It does not solve the problem. But it does say one thing: that the two things which were important to Britain, like the recognition that there is a case and that it should be dealt with now, not later, when it had occurred. So much so that *Le Monde*, for instance, commented that the French Government made a major concession to Mr. Wilson on this point on the regional fund, based on a model it had opposed a year ago giving Britain a greater share than France obtains.

Diary, page 14

Hope that budget accord will keep Britain in Nine

by Roger Berthoud

Brussels today the Paris summit was widely seen as a success. Diplomats and

analysts thought the most positive aspects were the agreement on Britain's budgetary contribution, which should help it stay in the Community; establishment of the regional development fund, though it is; and some

actual breakthroughs (as Kissinger would say) in giving the EEC's decision-making machinery.

The regional fund was the operational decision and warmly welcomed by the European Commission.

Several participants, including Mr. Wilson, Herr Schmidt, West German Chancellor, Tindemans, the Belgian Minister, and Dr. Giscard d'Estaing, the French President, were

impressed by the level of discussion on the serious economic situation. The switch of emphasis, even by the German, from inflation to

unemployment was seen as a major development. The switch of emphasis, even by the German, from inflation to

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Text of communiqué issued after EEC summit conference in Paris

Paris, Dec 11.—The full text of the communiqué, issued after the EEC summit meeting here yesterday, reads:

1. The Heads of government of the nine member states of the Community, the ministers of foreign affairs and the President of the Commission, meeting in Paris at the invitation of the French President, examined the various problems confronting Europe. They took note of the reports drawn up by the ministers of foreign affairs and recorded the agreement reached by these ministers on various points raised in the reports.

2. Recognizing the need for an overall approach to the internal problems facing Europe, the heads of government considered it essential to ensure progress and consistency in the activities of the Communities and in the work on political cooperation.

3. The heads of government have therefore decided to meet, accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs, three times a year, and whenever necessary, in the Council of the Communities and in the Council of the Heads of government.

4. The administrative secretariat will be provided for in an appropriate manner with due regard for existing practices and for the abolition of passport control within the Community.

5. Another working party will be set up to study the possibility of establishing a passport union and, in anticipation of this, the introduction of a uniform passport.

6. In principle, this should be submitted to the governments of the member states before December 31, 1975. It will, in particular, be the subject of a stage-by-stage harmonization of legislation affecting aliens and for the abolition of passport control within the Community.

7. The heads of government have decided to study the conditions and the timing under which the citizens of the nine member states could be given special rights as members of the Community.

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7. Greater latitude will be given to the permanent representatives so that only the most important political problems need be discussed in the Council. To this end each member state will take the measures it considers necessary to strengthen the role of the permanent representatives and involve them in preparing the national positions on European affairs.

8. Moreover, they agree on the advantages of the provisions of the Treaty of Rome whereby the powers of implementation and management are entrusted to the Commission. They will continue to work on the Commission.

9. Cooperation between the nine member states in the field of the treaty will be continued where it has already begun. It should be extended to other areas by bringing together the representatives of the governments, meeting within the Council whenever possible.

10. A working party will be set up to study the possibility of establishing a passport union and, in anticipation of this, the introduction of a uniform passport.

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The Danish delegation is unable at this stage to commit itself to introducing elections by universal suffrage by 1975.

35. The heads of government note that the process of transforming the whole complex of relations between the member states, in accordance with the decision taken in Paris in October 1972, has already started. They are determined to make further progress in this direction.

36. In this connection, they consider that the time has come for the nine to agree as soon as possible on an overall concept of European union. Consequently, in accordance with the requests made by the Paris meeting of heads of state and of government in October 1972, they confirm the importance which they attach to the reports to be made by the Community institutions.

37. They request the European Assembly, the Commission and the Court of Justice to bring the submission of their reports forward to before the end of June 1975. They agreed to invite Mr. Tindemans, the Prime Minister of Belgium, to submit a comprehensive report to the heads of government before the end of 1975, on the basis of the reports received from the institutions and of consultations which he is to have with the governments and with a wide range of public opinion in the Community.

38. The heads of government, having noted that internal and international difficulties have prevented the progress on the road to EMU, affirm that in this field their will has not weakened and that their objective has not changed since the Paris conference.

39. Convergence of economic policies in the Community is a step in the right direction. They also note with satisfaction the short-term economic programme which the government of the Federal Republic of Germany intends to follow, particularly as regards stimulating public and private investment, and the fact that the Belgian Government intends to follow suit.

40. They all express satisfaction at the efforts made by the countries having a balance of payments deficit to maintain their competitive position so as to achieve a more satisfactory balance of payments and to improve the level of employment.

41. While acknowledging the special situation of each of the member states of the Community— which makes a uniform policy inappropriate—the heads of government stress that it is absolutely necessary to agree on the policies to be adopted. This convergence will be meaningful only if it works towards Community solidarity and is based on effective permanent consultation machinery. The ministers for economic affairs and finance will be responsible, within the framework of Community procedures, for implementing these guidelines.

42. It is obvious that all these policies will be really effective only if so far as the world's major industrialized countries succeed in arresting incipient recessionary tendencies. In this connection, they note with satisfaction the account given by the Chancellor of the

43. The heads of government reaffirm that the aim of their economic policy continues to be to combat inflation and maintain employment. The cooperation of both sides of industry will be essential if this policy is to succeed. They emphasize that, in the present circumstances, high priority must be given to economic growth and to the creation of jobs, i.e., action aimed both at preventing a general economic recession and restoring stability. This must not involve any recourse to protectionist measures which, by setting up a chain reaction, could jeopardize economic revival.

44. Member states which have a balance of payments surplus must implement an economic policy of stimulating domestic demand and maintaining a high level of employment, without creating new inflationary conditions. Such an attitude would make it easier for countries which have considerable balance of payments deficits to follow a policy which will ensure a satisfactory level of employment, stabilization of costs and an improvement in their external trade balance without resorting to protectionist measures.

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Mr Wilson arriving back at No 10 yesterday after the EEC summit talks in Paris.

18. In the context of the effort to be made by countries having a surplus, the heads of government greet the economic policy measures already adopted by the Netherlands Government as a step in the right direction. They also note with satisfaction the short-term economic programme which the government of the Federal Republic of Germany intends to follow, particularly as regards stimulating public and private investment, and the fact that the Belgian Government intends to follow suit.

19. They all express satisfaction at the efforts made by the countries having a balance of payments deficit to maintain their competitive position so as to achieve a more satisfactory balance of payments and to improve the level of employment.

20. While acknowledging the special situation of each of the member states of the Community— which makes a uniform policy inappropriate—the heads of government stress that it is absolutely necessary to agree on the policies to be adopted. This convergence will be meaningful only if it works towards Community solidarity and is based on effective permanent consultation machinery. The ministers for economic affairs and finance will be responsible, within the framework of Community procedures, for implementing these guidelines.

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Mr Ford accepts that Congress will not pass tax increase plan but rejects idea of wage controls

From Frank Voel
United States Economic
Correspondent
Washington, Dec 11

President Ford has given up hope that the Congress will pass his proposed 5 per cent income tax increase. He told congressional leaders today that he is open-minded on new policies to fight inflation and recession, but sees no need for wage and price controls.

Mr Ron Nessen, the chief White House spokesman, stated that the President fully accepted that there was no chance of the Congress acting on his tax increase plan this session and no firm decision had yet been taken whether to reintroduce the proposal next year.

The spokesman said the President was constantly reviewing economic policies, but he did not plan to announce new policies in a speech tonight to the Business Council, a group of some 150 chairmen of America's largest companies.

Mr Nessen emphasized that the President had not changed his mind on the point that increased federal spending must be financed through increased taxation, but he appreciated that Congress was in no mood to accept a tax increase at this time.

The spokesman stated that the President told congressional leaders this morning that he still firmly believed that his economic programme of October 8 is finely tuned to meet

the dual problems of inflation and recession.

The surtax was a key element in this programme, as were substantial budget cuts, which the President now seems likely to largely reject.

Democrats in Congress have come out strongly for controls on wages, prices, profits and rents, but Mr Nessen stated that the President told the congressional leaders that there was no need for stand-by authority or mandatory controls.

Senior Administration officials now admit that even if the Congress accepts all of the President's budget-cutting plans the present year's budget will show a deficit of more than \$13,000m (about £4,700m). Savings of some \$4,700m were hoped for through tax increases.

The President strongly urged the congressional leaders to ensure immediate passage for his proposals to increase unemployment benefits and expand public service jobs programmes. Mr Nessen said Senator Robert Griffin, a Republican from Michigan, noted that the President was "seriously concerned" about the extent of the downturn in the economy in the last couple of months.

Forceful arguments for much greater inflationary efforts were made earlier today by three academic economists at a meeting of the Senate budget committee. Dr Arthur Okun, of the Brookings Institution, recom-

ended tax cuts and gave a warning that unemployment, now at 6.5 per cent, might well reach 8 per cent by next summer.

Dr Otto Eckstein, head of Data Resources Incorporated, told the committee that the economy would sink still lower if present Government policies were pursued, but that a significant recovery could develop, with an inflation rate of about 8 per cent, in the second half of 1975, if fiscal and monetary policies were eased now.

Professor Murray Weidenbaum, of Washington University, urged expanded public works programmes and suggested that this having been done, the built-in strength of the United States economy would generate much of its own recovery.

Mr Nessen stated that Mr Frank Zarb, who has been nominated to head the Federal Energy Administration, supported an idea to leave energy conservation programmes to private contractors at a meeting held in New York yesterday, which President Ford attended, with seven members of Mr Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices for America.

President Ford is encountering increasing criticism in the Congress and from many Congressmen for enjoying himself too much and in consequence spending too little time dealing with economic and energy problems.

Mr Murphy refuses to discuss his wife's business during Australian Senate questions Miss Morosi hits back at innuendoes

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec 11

Miss Juni Morosi, who earlier this week declined an offer to join the staff of Dr Cairns, the Deputy Prime Minister, as his private secretary, gave a press conference in Sydney today.

Facing the television and press cameras, she calmly answered question after question and undoubtedly made a favourable impression by her candour and composure.

She told the reporters: "I feel I have been used by certain interests in an effort to embarrass the Labour Government. I regard the stories which have been circulating about my sexual relations with Cabinet ministers as baseless innuendoes."

"There is absolutely no truth in them at all. What I have found as particularly hurtful is the effect all this controversy has had upon my family. That has been most distressing."

"As for the statements being circulated about the failure of companies with which I have been associated, it is a fact that 90 per cent of companies registered in Australia fail. I cheated on no one. No public money was involved. The only money involved were monies belonging to me. I find it strange that the New South Wales Corporate Affairs Commission should suddenly start investigations at this particular time when it all happened three years ago and was public property then."

She was asked: "How do you think you will come out of all this?"

She reflected for a moment and then replied quietly: "I will survive."



Miss Juni Morosi: centre of a political storm.

In the Senate in Canberra today Senator Lionel Murphy, the Attorney General, was questioned about alleged association between Ethiopian Airways, Miss Morosi, her husband, Mr David Ditchburn, and the senator's wife, Mrs Ingrid Murphy.

Asked whether he considered himself under any obligation to Ethiopian Airways, he replied: "No". He was also asked if he would reveal any benefits he or his wife received from the airline by way of free or concessional world travel or in other ways.

Senator Murphy was asked what business Ethiopian Airways carried on in Australia and if this was a front for other activities. He was unable to tell the Senate about the activities of Ethiopian Airways in Australia, he replied: "Even if I were, it is not within my ministerial portfolio."

He added: "I do not intend to enter into the business affairs of my wife in this Chamber. I do not think the Senate would expect me to and I do not intend to." He was cheered by Labour senators.

Mrs Murphy has worked as a public relations consultant for Ethiopian Airways. The airline's representative in Australia is Mr Ditchburn.

Sir John Kerr, the Governor General, today swore in Dr Cairns as Federal Treasurer and Mr Frank Crean, the former Treasurer, as Minister for Overseas Trade, the post previously held by Dr Cairns.

Dr Cairns was later interviewed by the press. He said that although difficult times were ahead, Australia had turned the corner and was now moving in the correct direction. An improvement was definitely noticeable.

"No matter what had been the Government in recent months, our economic performance would have been no better, because what has happened is built into the system. Admittedly we have made mistakes, the worse being our belief we could check inflation by perming an increased inflow of goods from overseas through tariff adjustments."

"Perhaps we went too far in that direction. Nevertheless it was a justifiable decision in the circumstances. It was a risk worth taking. To think you can check inflation without cost, is being stupidly unrealistic."

Zeffirelli realism made author 'shudder'

Continued from page 1

His explanation of what went wrong between one production and another was: "In London, Zeffirelli was dealing with an organic group of actors who had worked together and knew each other over a long period, actors who work with passion and with competence and who, if told to do something by the producer, would know why."

"I have been told that Olivier, Plowright, and Finlay, as well as the others, continually went back to the text to understand ideas and actions which they did not find convincing, and they rehearsed at length."

"In New York there were only four weeks of rehearsal with a cast containing some excellent actors but who did not form a real company, but above all I believe that Zeffirelli respected the British public but not the American public."

Signor de Filippo, who is 74, argues that, in his plays, it was never possible to be successful by concentrating on the Neapolitanism of the characters or of the plot because he had insisted constantly on doing away with all local colour and folklore on the stage. Attempts at realism, such as that of Signor Zeffirelli, made him shudder.

"Putting the first act song with mandolins in the play is like this by way of explanation not to make a comparison—putting 'The Volga Boatmen' in 'The Cherry Orchard' is better than what is happening in Russia."

"Certainly I am sorry about how things went in America, but on the other hand, in London, which I regard as the theatrical centre of the world today, the play is going splendidly. Josie Plowright is better still every evening and Frank Finlay moves me every time I see him."

"All I would cut out would be the music and the taking of bows around the table. This is attractive but pointless, and when you have 70 years in the theatre behind you, you reach the point of wanting to cut out everything that is not essential."

Martial law imposed after Rangoon riots

Rangoon, Dec 11.—The Burmese Government today declared martial law in Rangoon and placed the city under curfew after widespread destruction and looting.

One person was killed and three others were wounded when police opened fire as thousands of rioters set fire to vehicles and Government buildings.

A statement by the State Council said emergency measures were prompted by "mob rule which had become widespread."

"Lawless mobs", it added, "roamed all over the city, attacking or destroying Government offices, markets, police stations and road and railway transports."

The radio said there were no incidents when riot police raided Rangoon University campus. The body of U Thant, the former United Nations Secretary-General, was removed this morning to his new burial ground, despite incitement by lawless elements against the security forces.

The students seized U Thant's body last Thursday saying that they wanted a more fitting funeral and a special mausoleum for him.

U Thant's body was reinterred today at the family-burial mausoleum near the Shweda pagoda, Burma's most sacred shrine.—Reuters.

Declaration for International Women's Year

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Dec 11

International Women's Year, which is due to start on January 1, was given a send-off in a ceremony at the United Nations yesterday. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, of Iran, presented Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, with a declaration on women's rights which had been endorsed by 55 governments, including Britain.

The declaration said that peace could not be maintained nor economic and social progress be assured without the "full participation of women alongside men."

Police seize S. African churchmen's passports

From Michael Knipe
Cape Town, Dec 11

The South African Government publicly exercised its authority to seize the passports of six leading members of the anti-apartheid Christian Institute, including Dr C. F. Beyers Naudé, the institute's director.

A squad of 10 policemen took part in the raid on the institute's office in Johannesburg, entering the offices of five officials. In Cape Town two policemen were waiting at the home of the Rev Theo Kotze, the institute's Cape director, when he returned from a meeting in Johannesburg. He refused to allow him to use his telephone until he parted with his passport.

There is no obvious reason for the dramatic manner in which the passport confiscations have been carried out, other than to provide a display of Government toughness, presumably in the belief that it will send intimidatory ripples further afield. It seems that the Government does not intend its efforts to reach a black-white détente in southern Africa to give any impression of a relaxation of authority at home.

Four of the victims had had their passports restored by Dr Connie Mulder, Minister of the Interior, last March after a previous confiscation. The return of his passport had allowed Dr Beyers Naudé to visit the United States where he received the Rheinhold Niebuhr award for theological scholarship and political involvement and an honorary doctorate in law from the Chicago Theological Seminary.

During his trip overseas Dr Beyers Naudé incurred the wrath of Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, for reportedly saying in a speech in Holland that in the seemingly inevitable event of revolution in South Africa, the Christian Institute would support the African freedom fighters. Dr Beyers Naudé has strongly denied the inferences placed upon his words and produced a tape recording of his speech to substantiate his denial.

The other officials whose passports have been seized are the Rev Brian Brown, Mr Horst Kleinschmidt, and Mr Peter Randall. The Rev Roelf Meyer, editor of *Pro Veritate*, the institute's journal, resisted demands for his passport saying that freedom of movement was a basic human right.

Dr Beyers Naudé described the Government action as "petty and vindictive."

Bernard Levin, page 14

Grenades kill three in Tel Aviv cinema

Tel Aviv, Dec 11.—A man hurled hand grenades into a Tel Aviv cinema tonight and killed three people, including himself, Israeli Radio reported. At least 44 people were wounded.

Five grenades were thrown during the evening's second show, three of them from the balcony to the seating area on the ground floor and two of them in the balcony itself.

It was not clear if all the grenades went off. Some eyewitnesses said there were five loud, brilliant explosions. But police reportedly found and defused some unexploded grenades.

Teams of troops, police and ambulances raced to the Chen cinema at Dizengoff Circle, at the heart of Tel Aviv, and sealed off the district.

Mr Ilan Mehlir, who was in the cinema, said: "There were about 200 people downstairs but most of them were sitting in the back section. The man tossed five grenades downstairs towards the front. They exploded. The bangs were horrible. Everyone threw themselves to the floor.—Reuters."

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Dr Beyers Naudé described the Government action as "petty and vindictive."

Bernard Levin, page 14

House affirms ban on arms aid for Turkey

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Dec 11

The suspension of American military assistance to Turkey was affirmed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives today. The suspension went into effect at midnight last night under the terms of a continuing resolution.

In a technically separate move, the house rejected, as part of the passage of the new Foreign Aid Bill, a Senate extension of the deadline until mid-February.

Instead, by a vote of 297 to 98, it adopted an amendment by Mr Benjamin Rosen that making the suspension mandatory until Turkey withdrew its troops from Cyprus.

Another writer noted that the raid was the first attack on PLO and Al Fatah targets in the heart of Beirut since three terrorist leaders were killed in their homes in April, 1973. Israel had then officially acknowledged the operation, the writer said.

The *Maariv* article said that the precision in locating targets should worry Arab terrorists.

Tough Nixon adviser weeps at trial

From Fred Emery
Washington, Dec 11

Mr John Ehrlichman, the most defiant of the charges of co-spiracy to obstruct justice that he was deceived by Nixon into being an unwitting accomplice in a cover-up which he was trying to expose, while the parting on April 29 at Asp Lodge at Camp David.

Hitherto he has affected an air of being untroubled by his early trial and Senate ordeals. He demurely has been that of a tough chief presidential adviser on domestic affairs, a post occupied for four years.

Now he recalled that President had been "very emotionally upset." Mr Nixon's regretted having to ask closest advisers to resign. "I felt I had tried to be his conscience," he said. "He had been my friend and I had helped him in many ways."

This was presumed to be another reference to a fund some \$200,000 to \$300,000 which Mr Nixon said his friend, Mr Robert Kennedy, had been a contributor. The existence of the fund was disclosed by a recording played at the trial.

The fact that Mr Nixon, the taped conversation with Haldeman and Mr Ehrlichman said the contributors were "favoured" and "no fourth" raised many new questions about a "slush fund."

On the tape Mr Ehrlichman and Mr Haldeman refuse to offer of financial assistance. Giving his evidence yesterday Mr Ehrlichman emphasised the offer had indeed been refused.

Mounted police charge crowd at Boston school

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Dec 11

Violence flared up again in South Boston today after a white pupil of 17 had been stabbed in the abdomen at the high school. About 600 angry whites converged on the school to prevent the black pupils from leaving. They dispersed only after being charged by mounted police.

Bricks, stones, pins and eggs were thrown at the six mounted policemen as they led the charge. Several policemen were reported to have been injured and some members of the crowd were arrested.

Officials ordered the closing of the school for the rest of the week, in the hope that a cooling-off period would relieve the tensions.

Most of the white parents in South Boston have been boycotting the school since it pupils began being brought from Roxbury, a neighbouring area, at the beginning of school year in September. It has also been in recent days between black and white pupils in several of the other schools, and these tensions today.

At Hyde Park High School extra police were called in teachers detected a particularly tense atmosphere. At Roslindale High School, a number of pupils walked out after a between black and white pupils. Elsewhere a carrying black pupils was by whites.

In South Boston, a youth of 18 was charged assault and battery in connection with the stabbing at the school. The victim was said to be on the danger list.

622 go free in Philippines

Manila, Dec 11.—Pres Marcos of the Philippines announced the release of 622 prisoners in a nationwide amnesty for people in an alleged right-wing plot to assassinate him, including members of the opposition.

In a nationwide broadcast said that "assassins" were covered by presidential amnesty because they were "corrupt criminals moved by personal motives."

British safety officer Bahrain electrocuted

Bahrain, Dec 11.—Mr Gargan, aged 55, the British safety officer of the Bahrain Petroleum Company, electrocuted today while trying to fight a fire on a power mission pole damaged by winds.—Reuters.

Tanker blast deaths

Yokohama, Dec 11.—People died and seven were hurt today in explosion on board a 261-ton oil tanker identified as Shell No 6, Tokyo bay berth.

Sun mission goes west

Cape Canaveral, Dec 11.—The West German-built spacecraft, has streaked into space at 21,000 miles an hour on its way to its mission around the sun's corona and space.

Perón trip delayed

Buenos Aires, Dec 11.—Snow storm today prevented President Isabel Perón from leaving Argentina for land in Antarctica where she will claim for Argentine territory over an area of 25° and 74° W longitude. The flight had to return to Gallegos in southern Argentina.

Cyprus initiative

Brussels, Dec 11.—Dr Singer, the United States Secretary of State, today launched a diplomatic initiative with settlement of the Cyprus problem in view. He held a series of separate meetings with Demetrios Efissios, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Esenbel, his Turkish colleague.

Marijuana swoop

Sydney, Dec 11.—Police the biggest drug haul in Italian history when they seized a marijuana crop with a market value of million dollars on a five-acre farm of Sydney's east. Eleven men have been arrested. Agency France-Press.

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HAIGLAND GATHERING

Don't be vague. Come home to Haig.



F. ropean Parliament
Luxembourg

GARET FITZGERALD,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Republic of Ireland, giving his
report on the summit conference,
said that the British Government
would be a positive response when
the results of the renegotiations
were put to the British people.

The Minister's approach
(he said) to the questions posed
by the British Government. The
atmosphere, discussion and the
exchange of views and encourage-
ment to all of us who are con-
cerned that we should remain a
part of the European Community.
The United Kingdom will find it easy
to maintain its membership.

It was not a bad package to have
emerged from a meeting which
many of the Ministers felt might
turn out to be a damp squib.

One of the important decisions
was that the heads of Government
would meet three times a year,
and, whenever necessary, in the
context of the negotiations and
the context of political co-
operation. This would secure a stronger

life of the Community would make
it imperative for the institutions to
find equitable solutions". It was
agreed that the Commission should
set up a mechanism for settling
out the objective criteria which
would be taken into account when
such occasions arose, noting that
this would be made by the
British Government.

We believe (he said) should
provide the basis for an important
discussion which would be con-
siderably to resolve soon the
problems posed for the rest of us
by the uncertainty of Britain's
membership of the Community.

M SPENALE (France, Soc) said
that his group hoped the summit
had set things moving.

M DURIEUX (France, L) said
the summit had at last given a
fresh impetus to the Community.

MR PETER KIRK (UK, Safiron
Walden, C) said that there was a
vicious circle concerning the
position of the Parliament and direct
elections to it.

We are told that you cannot

momentum to the work at the summit. The Communists tried to tie into closer cooperation on economic affairs.

He was glad that the first of the Communists would take place in Dublin early next year when there would be a review of the economic situation. Although there had been serious discussion of economic problems facing the Community, he was deeply encouraged by the unanimity shown at the summit.

During the first time (or many months) he felt there was hope of avoiding a serious economic crisis and he was encouraged by the fact that the British, the Netherlands and Germany that these governments would take the necessary reflexionary action to stimulate public and private investment which at the moment was so badly needed.

With two reservations, there was a decision that elections by universal suffrage to the European Parliament should be held as soon as possible. (Cheers.) The heads of Government had in mind that the Parliament would be debating proposals for this in the next Parliament, in the new year but it was intimated that the Council of Ministers would wish to act in the next May. Mr. Mansart proposed direct elections should be held by 1980.

The Council of Ministers (he went on) in one of its rare moments of moving ahead of the

have powers unless you have representative functions (he said) and that we cannot have representative powers unless we have those functions.

MR LENIHAN (Ireland, DEP.) welcomed the communique on the summit as evidence of a will for political union.

M ANSART (France, Comm) asked how the problem of general unemployment was to be solved.

AIR RADUUX (Belgium, Soc) said that the Community was not a Community without the Community. The communists had never wanted a Community without the Community. He interpreted the words of the communique on this, that they seemed to have been making a few steps towards the matter, and then the socialists were satisfied with what had happened at the summit.

DR FITZGERALD, replying, said that the contrast between Paris and the summit in Copenhagen left him in a relatively optimistic humour.

We have made modest but significant progress in the wider area, had many antipathies. We are in a position to build on that and we have a lot of building to do before we create a Europe.

There had been a clear consciousness at the summit on the viciousness of the circle to which Mr Kirk had referred. Both powers

fact said that these elections by direct suffrage should take place at any time in or after 1978. (Cheers.)

MR. PATIJN (Netherlands, Soc.) — I will change my report. (Cheers.)

MR. FITZGERALD—I am glad that has been offered by the author of the report. (Laughter.)

In connection with the question of increasing the powers of Parliament, in our discussions there was a clear recognition by the heads of Government of the undesirability, and even impossibility, of holding direct elections for a Parliament which had inadequate powers. (Cheers.) The relationship between the powers of Parliament and direct elections was recognized.

If our problems are to be overcome (he said) both must be done at once.

On the question of Britain's contribution to the meeting, the meeting had a clear statement of the basis on which the British Prime Minister approached the negotiations and it was pointed out to him that in the other two reports it had been made clear that "if inequitable situations were to arise, the very

institutions at the same time.

M. FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ORTOLI, President of the Commission, said that for the first time there had been a serious discussion at the summit on the role of MPs by direct universal suffrage.

It is obvious to me as it must be to you (he said) that we want Gibraltar with us in the interests of the Community.

LORD GLADWYN (United Kingdom, L.) said that he would congratulate Mr Wilson on what he had achieved, as shown in the communiqué, and that he was in London Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan had expressed disappointment but they could not have expected much more than the agreement to set up a correcting mechanism and if that was on the basis set out in the communiqué, he could not think what a British Government would have been able to do.

M. ORTOLI said that when Parliament was elected it must be able to express its authority more strongly if they could not manage to act to link these two matters formally.

The debate concluded, but it was decided to debate the results of the summit again at the next meeting, in January.

businesses equally or more desirable.

We shall be discussing plans with British Rail (she said) in the light of the Government's new structure and their corporate plan but British Rail cannot expect to be exempt from the constraints which will apply to all other public expenditure.

Only rail could handle the heavy-lifts of the traffic programme, continuing programme of improvements on Southern Region was the only one which would be of any use to the schemes for other major urban areas.

There were no firm proposals for new electrification schemes but the Government was keen to encourage electrification. These would be considered when submitted in the light of current economic circumstances.

It was true that many stations were grim and grubby. On the other hand, there were some extremely clean and good stations. There had been new buildings in the last 10 years but the service was not always as bad and the punctuality did not descend uniformly to

REPLIES

LADY LLEWELYN-DAVIES OF RASTOE, Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms, and Government Chief Whip: I am sure that tomorrow (Thursday) in the debate on Mr Hunt's motion on capital punishment and terrorism, the list of the Government's proposals for there should be a vote it would take place probably in the early hours of the morning. It has been suggested that this would not be in the best interests of the House or of the Government's proposals.

There had been talks about the difficulties involved and Lord Hunt had agreed that the best solution might be to move the vote in a different form. He now proposed to introduce a motion calling for the Government to give special attention to capital punishment as a means of combating terrorism."

LORD PLATT—Does that mean no vote will be taken?

LADY LLEWELYN-DAVIES—Yes.

LORD PLATT—We will not

ould be austere

likely that the ordinary citizen will demand the request to "put out that light."

LORD MELCHETT—The Government do all they can to conserve electricity. Measures have already been taken by using high pressure sodium lamps in lighting the Palace of Westminster which have dramatically cut the cost and the amount of power consumed.

The Government have decided not to ban the floodlighting of buildings and statues at this time because in their view this would make life unnecessarily austere. The whole energy situation will be

discussed closely. Where necessary, the necessary measures are required the Government will not hesitate to take any action.

LADY LLEWELYN-DAVIES—That is true.

Best hope in Middle East

THE EARL OF GOWRIE (C) said he feared most the Middle East would be a long-term investment. The Government tried to try to help to forge a common European policy towards the energy producers.

LORD FISHER OF CAMDEN, Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews in Britain, in his maiden speech, said it was for the least engaging in terrorism to give it up. In the eyes of impartial observers, he said, there had never been so well cared for.

LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said while there might be room and opportunity for an initiative by the EEC, it should not cut across the continuing American attempt. The best hope was Dr Kissinger's tireless and skilful diplomacy.

We are still ready (said) to lend a hand if the parties wish it but it would not help to move into an area where one or other of the parties might resent what they considered to be an intrusion.

Britain had not acquiesced in the granting of observer status to the PLO. She had voted against observer status for the organization.

House adjourned, 9.54 pm.

Shopping around

Sheila Black

Thelma Russell runs a little business called Knots and her products are bracelets, collars, necklaces and long chokers made of natural materials like coloured string, knotted and larded with beads, glass, ceramics, etc. She does occasionally use rayon and one type of plastic bead that she considers to be of good quality and she also makes belts, basically for the young but there are plenty of older women who like what she does. Her ready-made pieces are from around 35p or 45p for narrow ropes of knots and beads, going up to 70p with tasselled pendants and either wooden or ceramic beads. Bracelets can match or contrast and pendants on leather thongs are entirely unisex. Really heavy cord belts, about 2 1/2 in wide, fastened with plated tassels are good with simple, long hostess dresses and are either £3 or £3.30 according to size.

Miss Russell undertakes special, personal projects for people with unused beads (probably about £3). She charges 5p postage for "jewellery" and 10p for belts. The number is 0642 613374 and the address is Knots, 116 (Back) Mandale Road, Thornaby, Cleveland County. Thelma herself is best found between 5.30 and 6.30 pm, but there is



Drawing by Anne Whitbottom

has no illustrated leaflets but will send a descriptive price list and is ready to describe anything by telephone. The number is 0642 613374 and the address is Knots, 116 (Back) Mandale Road, Thornaby, Cleveland County. Thelma herself is best found between 5.30 and 6.30 pm, but there is

Fleet Street inspired another game from Gemini. Less a game, really, than a child's project. Already their "Make your own Books" and the counter-parts for making magazines and comic strips are runaway successes—well, the shortage of magazines during the past year as a result of industrial action could have helped.

Now inspired by Fleet Street's last strike, and while we are on the brink of more discussions concerning the future of Newspapers, this was designed by a former journalist and it does give children plenty of scope for fun and imagination. They have the news pictures, headlines, hints and layouts, cartoons and all, together with an illustrated history of newspapers. Each Gemini kit costs £1.08 through W. R. Smiths, and must go to bookshops, toyshops and department stores. Basically for seven to 14-year-olds. Another bright idea from this firm is the Playmate Puppet (also seven to 14 years). A Puppet Gemini kit contains two, easily made large models already cut and scored to press out, together with rough, self-adhesive material to reinforce joints of the finished puppet. I do

recommend these—they look dramatic yet could little and do not fall apart easily. They cost 85p each from the same stockists as Gemini kits, or you can buy by direct mail from The Children's Book Centre, Little Road, Ailford Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU8 8NU (add 20p postage for one or two items plus 10p per additional item). Gemini can be at 40, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C1.

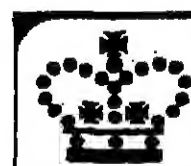


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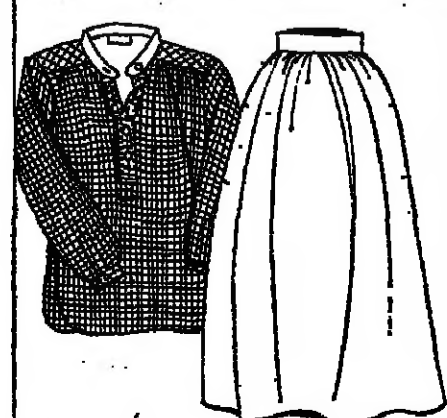
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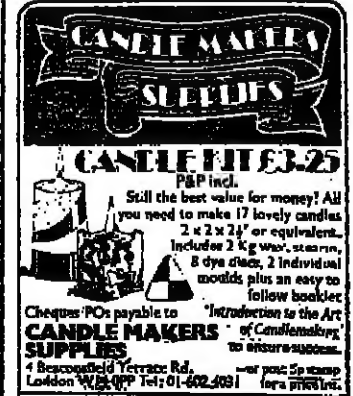
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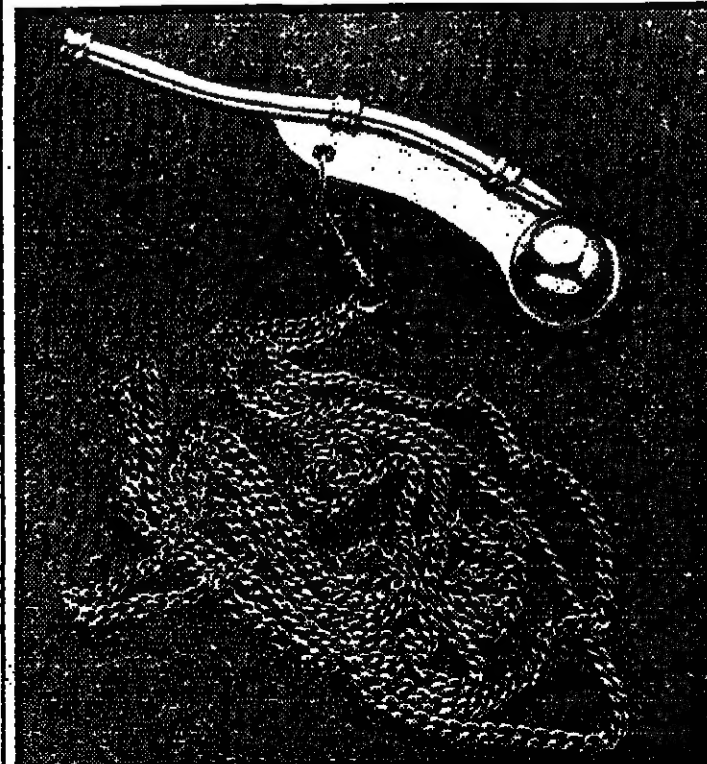
THE TIMES SPECIAL REPORTS We like to keep you in the know



His knee-length nightshirt is blue and white, just right for formal City men. Red stripes are as near passionate as a nightshirt can be, while the brown stripe looks the thing for advertising executives. Ankle length counterparts are available too—prices are respectively, £8.50 and £9.99 plus 25p postage for each. Colder men should wear wineryette, as their grandfathers probably did, and these are in, thin stripes, like the old-fashioned shirt that was worn with detachable collars and rather like some that Alf Garnett used to wear. Colours are greenish, blueish and reddish, and there are matching nightcaps. For chilly women with curlers to hide the wineryette nightdress is in near-white with beige lace and ribbons—£7.50



Ellisdon's are still selling jokes and magic tricks, as they have been since before I was born. The catalogue is still full of horrors like a third eye, bruised thumb, an axe through the head, horrid spider, monster teeth, matches that refuse to light, Jimmy Durante noses, and various paper hats or carnival novelties. A Christmas card tree holds up to 100 cards, stands 2ft high, and costs 75p (store it for next year). The catalogue costs 10p (or 10p in stamps) from Ellisdon's, PO Box 52, Dallas Road, Bedford, England. Everything is by mail.



A bosun's whistle is engraved with a name and suspended on a long chain of about two feet to sell as an ornament, taxi-hailer, thief-scared, summoner of children, husbands, lovers or anyone else. I believe it might also come in useful for boating. It costs £2.45 with up to 20 engraved letters and is sold in a little box containing a brief history of the Boatswain's Call and how to pipe it. The mail order address is Nautical Antiques, Russell Road, Shepperton, Middlesex. If approaching by water, look out there for Halford Bend.

Photograph by Trevor Sutton

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1968. Notice is hereby given that by an order of the High Court of Justice in the County of London, made on the 11th day of November 1974, the following companies have been struck off the Register of Companies:—
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2. The London and Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd. (No. 1000000 of 1968).
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Independent view from Dublin

Back beyond square one in Ulster's aim of power-sharing

Faced with local dissidence, it is natural for a government to look for a local solution. Reconciliation between Unionist and Nationalist is the immediately obvious thing to work for in Northern Ireland, and power-sharing the immediately obvious policy approach.

Power-sharing, certainly, is a splendid policy for London and Dublin politicians. In urging reconciliation on Unionist and Nationalist they can feel they are on the side of the angels; because power-sharing is a policy strictly local in its application, it has the advantage of minimizing London and Dublin involvement; and if it breaks down, it is the local politicians who will seem to be responsible.

It has not proved such a good policy for the Northern Irish. Far from the Sunningdale experiment improving matters in the North, it has ended up with northern politics being more polarized than ever. And, indeed, it is nothing new for London policies to rebound in this way. Since 1963, moderate Unionist leader after moderate Unionist leader has been discredited trying to push through, at London's urging, policies which Unionist voters would not stomach. It is time to ask whether there is not something fundamentally wrong with London's (and indeed Dublin's) view of the whole affair.

The vital immediate question is: "How can a peaceful future for the people of Northern Ireland here be ensured?" The trouble is that (because of a natural wish in London and Dublin to keep the whole nasty issue at arm's length?) this is paraphrased to read: "What political institutions are best for Northern Ireland?"

But the two questions are by no means the same. The basic issue of Northern Irish politics is not about how the province should be ruled, but about whether the province should be a separate political unit at all. Nationalists want Ireland to be united; Unionists want to keep it divided. The existence of Northern Ireland as a separate unit is evidence of the Unionist's success, at least to date. To propose power-sharing in Northern Irish politics as a means of reconciling Unionist with Nationalist is rather like telling a group of people who want to live in a house and a group who want to pull it down and suggesting that the quarrel be resolved by the two groups getting together to maintain the building. It cannot work.

Unionists, as people, would no doubt be happy to work alongside Nationalists, as people; but, as Unionists, they cannot afford to. To help show that Unionists can work alongside Nationalists is to show that a united Ireland would work; and no party can reasonably be expected to make nonsense of its basic political tenet.

When Unionists say they accept power-sharing but not a Council of Ireland, they are in fact demonstrating the impossibility of effective power-sharing; for what they are really saying is that power-sharing is only possible about relatively trivial issues. On the only important issue—the constitutional—their stance is consistent to no stage of Nationalist involvement.

Regional institutions must be based on the regional loyalty—

and the only loyalty which identifies itself with Northern Ireland is Protestant Unionism. If Northern Ireland political institutions are to be effective, they must be based on Protestant Unionism; and no one need be shocked that in the aftermath of Sunningdale, moderate-minded Unionists have turned away from moderate leaders towards extreme politicians they would not normally care for. At a time of crisis, they were turning away from leaders who had nothing to offer but power-sharing (and consequent disorder) to men who represented the only possible source of coherent leadership for Northern Irish institutions—Protestant Unionism.

The attempt over the past five years to get for Nationalists a share of power in the province's affairs was vain from the beginning. We are back where we started; indeed further back still, for the present Unionist leaders are extreme men who would never have been chosen five years ago. No Irishman need be surprised if, in the aftermath of the Birmingham horror, British people are in no mood for concessions to Irish nationalism; yet the fact of Irish nationalism remains, as long as the Constitution of Northern Ireland makes no concessions to its existence, the IRA will be able to claim a monopoly of the Irish nationalist cause, will continue to get recruits, and will continue to plague the people of these islands.

What can be done? Nothing clearly inside the context of Northern Irish representative institutions; that is to invite disorder. London and Dublin must accept that the Irish question cannot be properly dealt with for so long as they try and deal with it at arm's length, through the medium of a hopelessly-pliant Northern Assembly whose members are expected to do what London and Dublin want them to do—and to sacrifice their political lives when things go wrong. The only meaningful concession to Irish nationalism is the creation of an all-Irish institution with powers however small, and if such an institution is ever to be created, it will have to be done directly by London and Dublin, without seeking the consent of Belfast.

But talk of concessions to Irish nationalism is fanciful at the moment. The real immediate need is to get understanding of the basic facts; that, for instance, attempts to foster power-sharing make matters worse, not better. Further, the Irish question is not just a local sectarian squabble, to be solved by tinkering with the province's internal politics.

It also concerns the partition of the island of Ireland; most of the tragic loss of life there has been occurred, not in Catholic-Protestant violence, but in the pursuance by the IRA of what it regards as a war against the British Crown.

Again, if London will not integrate the province in the United Kingdom, and if there is not to be an independent Ulster or a united Ireland, there must be regional institutions in Belfast; and London must stand over the fact that, if these institutions are to work, they must be expressions of Protestant Unionism. When these facts are digested there will at least be a realistic basis for policies to deal with Irish nationalism and the IRA.

Hugh Munro

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Ronald Butt

EEC: the terms and the referendum

What the other heads of government of the European Community have wanted to know from Mr Wilson this week is whether, if he gave him the improved membership terms demanded, Britain will stay in the EEC or, at least, whether the Government will throw its full weight behind advice to the British people that they should vote to stay in, when the now apparently inescapable referendum day arrives.

What Mr Wilson, in contrast, wants from the rest of the EEC is improved conditions of membership, or terms, which trust to his balanced assertion that he wants to stay in but will be advised to let the British people leave if the terms are not "right".

Mr Wilson has stuck firmly to his claim that the argument is about the terms and nothing but the terms, and that no question of principle is involved.

Nor, for Mr Wilson, Mr Callaghan and most of the Cabinet, is there a question of principle. But for the majority of active labour supporters, and for the TUC, the basic objection from which the renegotiation of the "terms" has been Mr Wilson's escape route—is essentially one concerning the principle of membership. Whatever improvement in the terms Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan can achieve, the question on which Mr Benn, Mr Shore and other anti-marketisers will build their case in the referendum campaign will be one of principle—the principle of sovereignty.

This will be the issue to which they (and other prominent anti-EEC campaigners, including Mr Powell) will direct the attention of the British people, not to the terms; it will be foolish for politicians not to address their thinking to the likelihood that it will be far easier for the expert can play them to his advantage. Some of these are frowned on while others elicit no more than a knowing wink. It is, however, entirely new for a national institution to "play" an auction to its advantage. This is what appears to have happened in the case of the Normanton Farmington.

Sent for sale at Christie's on November 29, it was bought in at the auction at 260,000gns with the Louvre as the underbidder. Immediately after the sale it was announced that the National Gallery had purchased the painting privately for an undisclosed price. The National Gallery's interest in the painting was no secret before the sale and it is generally assumed that the reason they chose not to bid at the auction itself was due to some arrangement with the Normantons.

The gallery is refusing categorically to give any details of the deal. Other bidders and collectors interested in the painting are not surprisingly angry at this. If the ground rules for the sale of major works from English collections at auction have been changed, those who are likely to be competing when other works come up for sale and wealth tax could bring many great works on to the market—would like to know the terms on which they are competing.

Professor John Hale, chairman of the trustees of the National Gallery, comments that the gallery's primary responsibility to the public is to acquire great paintings for the national collection. They are entitled to use the best means available to do this and there is no reason why they should lose their advantage by talking about it. Besides, if they do not respect the confidentiality of an agreement with an owner, other owners will be discouraged from approaching the gallery. Patrick Lyndsay, director of Christie's picture department, said desperately: "If you knew the details of the arrangement I am sure you would consider it entirely honourable." I am sure people would—if they knew.

Of the several theories advanced on the nature of the deal, one is particularly impor-

precisely to what extent the terms have been significantly improved and whether such improvement makes any difference to the fundamental argument.

Theoretically, it is conceivable that there will be no referendum and some Conservatives believe that the whole question of the Community will be subsumed in the economic cataclysm which they foresee next year, with a 25 per cent or more inflation rate and the breakdown of the social contract. Some argue that we may yet see Mr Wilson going to the country at the head of some sort of government, Conservative supported, standing for responsible economic management and membership of the EEC.

But for practical purposes, it should be assumed that there will be a referendum and that if (which is anything but certain) Mr Wilson recommends "yes", Mr Benn, Mr Shore and Mr Foot will be allowed to speak their minds against membership on the point of sovereignty, and to do so from inside the Government under an agreement to differ from their colleagues, on the understanding that they will accept the verdict of the British people, whatever that may be.

Mr Wilson will not find it easy to defeat such opposition. Even assuming he gets improved terms for the British contribution to the EEC budget, and on agriculture, it is not clear how these, or changes on any of the other issues being negotiated, can be represented as a fundamental answer to the objection to membership on the grounds of sovereignty which is held by those to whom sovereignty is the major issue.

What is more, the argument will be further confused by an illogicality which lies at the heart of the case of those anti-marketisers who are in the Labour Party. Theoretically (despite the xenophobia which afflicts very many Labour supporters, particularly where

Europe is concerned) Labour is an internationalist party; why then should it object to membership of an internationalist body like the EEC?

The answer that anti-market Socialists now give is that by membership of the community, the British people would be surrendering their right to give or withhold their consent, through Parliament, to many basic acts of government. (The fact that the principle of the referendum itself undermines the authority of Parliament is skated over). Pointing to the extent to which Ministers already find their scope for decision restricted by law which is made in Brussels, they assert the particular danger of such a development at a time when the task of restoring public consent to the acts of government is more essential than ever before.

There is, however, a counter-argument to this objection which an internationalist socialist logically ought to meet. What if the Community itself should invert genuinely democratic, as well as supra-national institutions? What if every British voter should, eventually, be able to vote for a genuinely democratic and elected European Parliament to which a "European Government" was responsible for that part of law which was "European" rather than national? Can it not be argued that if the assignment given this week to Mr Tindemans, the Belgium Prime Minister, to work out a scheme for direct elections by 1979 comes off, this kind of supra-nationalism could become a reality?

Certainly, the end of the Council of Ministers' unanimity rule which is the present guardian of national sovereignty, would only be tolerable if such a democratic system for Europe could be created. However, that is something that is very much in the future, and the present British Government has strong reservations about encouraging the development of the EEC in so federalist a direc-

tion. Those who stick upon the point of sovereignty, therefore, will assert that any hope of a genuinely democratic supra-nationalism in Europe is too far ahead to be taken account of in the present argument. Yet however one looks at it, the argument can be made to come back to the question of "sovereignty"—a vague term which can be used variously to indicate the "sovereignty of the people" and the "sovereignty of Parliament" and which will be none the less potent in a referendum campaign on account of that ambiguity.

If Mr Wilson has to counter the argument that we are joining an institution whose future development is unforeseeable, there is perhaps a further escape route that he could use. If referenda are to be an instrument of the British constitution next year (assuming Parliament agrees which is by no means yet certain) why should they not be employed over future European Community questions too? It would, I suppose, be open to Mr Wilson to say that, in voting "yes" to the terms as they stand now, and to membership of the Market in its present shape, the electorate would not be giving carte blanche to any future development which might subordinate national sovereignty to supra-nationalism.

But could I suppose, promise that if Mr Tindemans' work leads to firm propositions for fundamental changes in the institution of the Community, the British people would have the right to pronounce upon these in a further referendum when the time comes. The referendum idea is such a Pandora's box that who knows where it might not lead? But however one looks at it, it is difficult to escape from the probability that Mr Wilson will find it very difficult to keep the voters' attention on the terms and nothing but the terms when he puts the questions to them.

Seeing fair play in the auction room



Detail from the Normanton Farmington.

argue that an auction is likely to bring a new record price level which will outdistance the advantages of a negotiated private sale.

It has been suggested that a private offer before the sale from the National Gallery, grossed up to take account of tax advantages, was used by the Normantons as the auction reserve, or price below which the painting would not be sold. This would certainly be an intelligent method of operation for other galleries to imitate in future.

That this was, in fact, the deal is more doubtful. Lord Normanton told the painting to his wife a week before the sale which appears to rule out any secret duty advantage that might have been available on his own inheritance of the work.

The more modest capital gains tax advantage would remain. So theory number two is that the auction was used as a means of determining a fair price for the gallery to pay for the painting—they would cap the last true bid in the auction room. It is believed that the price paid by the gallery was around £250,000; the last bid was 240,000 gns or £252,000. How high would the National Gallery have gone? Patrick Lyndsay hastened to assure me after the sale that any bidder who had been prepared to pay enough to have secured the painting at the auction; the reserve, he suggested, was only modestly beyond the buy-in price.

In Paris the national museums have the right to preempt a work of art at the price offered by the auction bidder. Is this practice now being introduced in England without any one being told about it?

Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The Times Diary

Just like raiding the tuckshop

dations (which we had already had from Wilson's press adviser, Joe Haines, at lunch time) was peddled again with clearly paternal pride.

The British delegation took special pride in James Callaghan's suggestion, when the regional fund was under discussion, that the British would opt out completely if that was what the other eight would prefer. Giscard, whose remarks had opened the door for this suggestion, apparently caught it in the neck from his continental colleagues. With the delight of schoolboys who have succeeded in stealing sweets from the tuckshop, the cock-a-hoop British unattributably describe their role in this episode as "innocents abroad—so touching that we touched them for £8 million".

Less equal

Women on American newspapers and magazines are intensifying their campaign against what they see as discrimination against them. On *The New York Times*, a group of six women has taken the paper to court on behalf of the 600 women employees. Similar action is under way or has already been taken, on *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and the Columbia Broadcasting System, the largest of the television networks.

In the case of *The New York Times*, the complaint is that preference is given to men when

appointments are being made at home and abroad. Men get better salaries, it is claimed, more merit increases and more security. Male employees earn on average nearly £2,000 more than women. There are also departments—such as sports, photography and classified advertising—in which women have great difficulty getting jobs.

The legal basis for these complaints is the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This provides for a long series of steps in which anyone who feels discriminated against goes first to the New York City Human Rights Commission and then on to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The women on *The New York Times* have been through all this, and have got nowhere, they say. The paper disagrees. It introduced an "affirmative action programme" some years ago, it maintains, and since then there has been no discrimination.

Over-exposed

Considering it is supposed to be a highly secret organization, the United States Central Intelligence Agency is exposed with remarkable regularity. The latest person to reveal all the filthy secrets is Philip Agee, whose book about his 12 years as an agent will be published next month, entitled *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*.

This one is supposed to contain even bigger and filthier secrets than the others—the

most recent of which, by Victor Marchetti, was published only in September. There are the usual tales of efforts by the CIA to have it suppressed. One of the oddest of these tales was printed in *More*, an American review of journalism.

This maintains that before Marchetti came to Britain to launch his own CIA exposé, he was approached by CIA agents who asked him to steal Agee's manuscript from the London airport. The article says Marchetti was told that Agee was a radical who had "gone off the deep end" and that it was Marchetti's duty as a patriotic American to steal the manuscript. He declined, and instead told Agee (who now lives in Cornwall) about the offer.

More also makes much of the fact that eight New York publishers declined to buy the manuscript from Allen Lane, who have the world rights. The American edition will be published in the spring by Straight Arrow, the publishing division of *Rolling Stone*, the radical periodical. The implication is that the New York publishers turned the book down on political grounds, but when asked by *More*, most of them said they simply found it boring.

This I can believe. Although I have not read the book, a London news agency released some extracts from it yesterday. It is full of dull and quite ungraspable stuff about who was doing what undercover things to whom, mainly in Latin America. The most exciting incidents concern some "inflammatory plans for revolution" planted in an Ecuadorian Communist's toothpaste tube, and a reference to a "hilarious Cuban embassy chauffeur" who was a good agent but apparently a poor driver. But do not buy it for laughs.

Bernard Levin

The bell tolls again on Robben Island

Amid the extraordinary events of the last few days in Southern Africa, it is easy, so strong a force is hope, to forget the ancient rule that, where tyrants are concerned, we must pay attention to their actions and not their words. Mr Vorster said last month, and subsequently repeated, that "startling changes" would be coming in South Africa within six months. I am, perfectly prepared to believe him *ex post facto*, but not a minute before; if he will show us the changes, we will consider them. And today, as it happens, I am in a position to suggest one startling change to him that could be carried into effect immediately, without South Africa collapsing in ruins, and even without the housewives of the more expensive Johannesburg suburbs being compelled to do their own washing-up.

I wrote some time ago about conditions on Robben Island, where many of South Africa's political prisoners are kept, and the way in which the authorities were trying to destroy these uncomfortable reminders of the fact that tyranny inevitably breeds resistance to it. Nobody who saw Abol Fugard's play *The Island*, when it was running in London earlier this year, will forget the double-sided portrait it gave of South Africa's most notorious prison camp; on one side, the desperate need of South Africa to break or silence the witnesses against her, and on the other their refusal to be broken or silenced.

They do, however, die, a natural process which is greatly encouraged by the conditions on Robben Island. One who recently obliged the authorities in this manner was a Mr Julius Nkumbul, who was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for the offence of breaking his "banishing" order; that is, he stepped outside the magic penitentiary which South Africa's regime inscribes about those who embarrass it. Nkumbul was confined to certain areas of Johannesburg, and went outside; for that alone he was jailed and, when he had a year of his sentence to go, was transferred to Robben Island. He was soon very seriously ill (it is not entirely clear whether he was ill before the transfer, or if so whether the authorities sent him to the island knowing of his condition), suffering from a lung disease which was either phthisis or lung cancer, and he was in either case incurable.

The South African Prisons Act provides for the release, on compassionate grounds, of incurably ill prisoners; no distinction is made in the legislation between political and non-political ones, but in practice the authorities do not release dying political prisoners, possibly thinking that, since anyone who questions the basis of South African society must be in league with the devil, it would not be prudent to let them go. His Majesty's Majesty to raise them from the dead. Anyway, Nkumbul was not released; indeed, for some time he was not even taken to a hospital outside the island, but treated there. Eventually, however, he was sent, under guard and with some other seriously ill prisoners, to hospital in Cape Town, but his case was hopeless. So he was taken back to Robben Island, and died there. Indeed, not only was he refused the grace of dying among his own family, he was taken on the point of death he was taken to an unoccupied part of the prison, so that he died quite alone, without even his fellow-prisoners to comfort him.

A further example blind and horrible in the South African ties is provided by a prisoner called Sileng also died on the island case even the medical ties of the prison had mended his release (I cannot have survived), but not permitted. Not a body was returned to the (he was a Namibian) was buried by the authorities in Cape Town.

Now here, as I say, I feel opportunity for Mr Vorster to demonstrate to the world that he is willing to promise a "startling change" could be more stated, that he should begin to: political prisoners with and humanity, and since Africa can get no gain from the kind of present practise against he would, if he were to the immediate release of all prisoners (my opinion is that there are more of these on Robben alone), begin to persuade the sceptical that he posing to keep his word.

For one man, an announcement would be a start. I learn that ("Bram") Fischer, one of the few few denounce Communist by the South authorities who actually is, is dying in Pretoria, a fall in prison a few weeks in which he injured himself during the consequent extensive cancer was covered; he is now in a hospital, guarded, not expected to live long.

Great king, within this Thy buried fear: he breathe The mightiest of thy enemy

Fischer's life poses in form the problem that point of tyranny must what should be our attitude towards those who oppose it in the cause of another ing aside such special a war for survival—a obviously right to be all Soviet Communism. Nansen, even though this was as well as the last right to work on liberty with those who elsewhere against her? I am in r at all in my own case, circumstances whatever I take part in any join or action or campaign the Soviet Union with who support South Africa. But it is in to withhold admittance Fischer for the fight against South Africa: it is no less right to him with sympathy in placing his treatment hands of the barbaric magnificent efforts as in the two great South "show trials"—the Riv of the African leaders, ludicrous mass press ago, Vorster, in the ing collapsed in i ignominy—would the earn him a place on of honour inscribed names of those who had died evil; the way in w was jailed for life wot wise ensure that he among those who have suffered at its hands. Vorster, in the a campaign for Fischer (even so impeccably figure as Dr Christiaan joined it), said bluntly while I'm alive". In circumstances, this would apt moment for a sign intends to redeem his that South Africa v changed.

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Adrift

A police station has been floating in the middle of the Thames, between Waterloo and Blackfriars, for a week and a half. A reader who believes in conspiracy theories wondered what it was doing there, since it cannot be reached by land and has an ominously fortress-like appearance.

enforcers themselves to lean—provoking jokes bent coppers.

So the authorities of a dredging firm which is laying away the silt. Meanwhile the floating station, which is not on a phone. Messages are by radio to the police board from an office or Pier, at Lambeth Bridge is being used tempora Times Police. Yesterday noon, however, there breakdown in the ele supply to the pier and th was not working. It never do for Z Cars.

Super squat

Hamstead likes to thit a superior district in respect, and a colleague lives there now tells boasts a superior kind of ter. A group of three in one woman arrived the night at an empty house. They came in a Rover litre with a television set boot and a Great Dane, only a thoroughbred, back seat. Moreover, neig peering through the lac nisms have noticed thi woman returns from her expéditions in a taxi

There are a number of r who enjoy sending me paper headlines, esp from The Times, which a double meaning. I love all for it, but on this oc let me get in first w definitive joke about day's headline on this Why Hamiltoners wou accept the standards of Liverpool? Or do because they would feel s down.

The oil around us

a Special Report

Ministers and companies all set for tough bargaining

Roger Vielvoys
by Correspondent

Last month Sir Eric the chairman of the Petroleum Industry Council, a team of his senior advisers to Lancaster House at three representatives of the Government — Mr. David Lever, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lord Dill, Paymaster General, and Lord Balogh, Secretary of State at the Department of Energy. The meeting marked the start of a series of long and tough discussions over the state participation in the oilfields found in the North Sea.

The Government's policy in the North Sea has been to allow the oil companies to explore and produce oil and gas, but to ensure that the state receives a fair share of the profits. This has been done through a system of royalties and taxes. The Government has also been concerned to ensure that the oil companies are not overpaying for the oil and gas they produce.

Mr. Lever has said on a number of occasions that he wants to see a fair deal for the state. He has also said that he wants to see the oil companies pay a fair price for the oil and gas they produce. He has also said that he wants to see the state receive a fair share of the profits from the oil and gas.

While Mr. Lever and the oil companies are in negotiations, the Government has been working on a new system of royalties and taxes. This new system is expected to be introduced in the next few months. It is expected that the new system will be more fair to the state and the oil companies.

Investigations into North Sea policy

The presence of Mr. Dill in the negotiations does not mean that the Government has decided to change its policy. The negotiations are still in the early stages and the Government is still considering its options. The Government is also aware of the need to ensure that the oil companies are not overpaying for the oil and gas they produce.

Mr. Dill's role in the negotiations is to ensure that the Government's policy is being followed. He is also responsible for ensuring that the oil companies are not overpaying for the oil and gas they produce. Mr. Dill is also responsible for ensuring that the state receives a fair share of the profits from the oil and gas.

The negotiations between the Government and the oil companies are expected to be tough. The oil companies want to pay as little as possible for the oil and gas they produce. The Government wants to ensure that the state receives a fair share of the profits from the oil and gas. The negotiations are expected to continue for some time.

The Government is also aware of the need to ensure that the oil companies are not overpaying for the oil and gas they produce. The Government is also aware of the need to ensure that the state receives a fair share of the profits from the oil and gas. The Government is also aware of the need to ensure that the oil companies are not overpaying for the oil and gas they produce.

the development of finds made up to the end of next year. He also said there would be no controls over production before 1982, and if these were eventually necessary the companies could expect ample notice.

Yesterday, speaking in London, Mr. John Smith, Under Secretary at the Department of Energy, told a conference on the North Sea oil and gas production — the "ring fence" around British oil and gas production activities.

The revenue tax will be levied on gross proceeds from all oil and gas production, except from the producing gasfields in the southern basin of the North Sea — before corporation tax is deducted. The main objection from the oil companies so far has been the Government's intention to apply the new tax on a field by field basis.

Whitehall already has powers to control the rate of extraction from the North Sea and to impose restrictions on exports, the companies claim. In this situation the Government has all the powers it needs to guide the direction of North Sea oil exploitation and will gain 51 per cent of a profitable asset. Estimated just how much would be needed vary greatly, from £1,000m to £10,000m, has been mentioned. A source within the Treasury has seen the deleterious effect of negotiating power as a sign that the Government may, indeed, issue such a hard line as first mentioned. At the appointment of Mr. Lever, the Government has received a qualified welcome from the oil companies. Any thoughts they might get a better deal are largely wishful thinking. While Mr. Lever and the oil companies are in negotiations, the Government has been working on a new system of royalties and taxes. This new system is expected to be introduced in the next few months. It is expected that the new system will be more fair to the state and the oil companies.

Mr. Lever may well find that some of the stiffest opposition comes from BP, in which the Government has a 48 per cent stake. The company is not receiving preferential treatment and the Government has made it plain that it requires 51 per cent of the BP finds in the same way as any other company.

It would be possible for the Government to abandon its policy of allowing BP to act as a commercial company without state interference. But it is anxious to demonstrate to the Americans in particular that its North Sea proposals apply equally to all companies whether British or foreign. Fears of retaliation against growing British oil interests in the United States are behind the Government's drive to treat all North Sea participants fairly.

Just two organizations are excluded from this equal treatment policy. The National Coal Board has been told that its North Sea interests will be transferred to the British National Oil Corporation and that it will receive compensation for its loss. British Gas will be allowed to continue its operations without surrendering any part of its holdings to the BNOC, but its partners in various discoveries are still uncertain whether the British Gas shareholding will count towards the state 51 per cent participation or if they will still be required to negotiate a majority state holding in their shares.

The rising costs of recovery

Negotiations must also be made more complex by the continuing rise in the cost of getting oil ashore from the North Sea reservoirs. A large oilfield could cost more than £1,000m to develop and it seems unlikely that even the biggest oil companies can handle two or possibly three fields at these costs.

Although oilmen would regard it as treason to admit the fact, some companies could be seriously embarrassed if their exploration efforts were too successful. If oil discoveries were to outstrip the capacity of a company to develop them, state participation might be welcome.

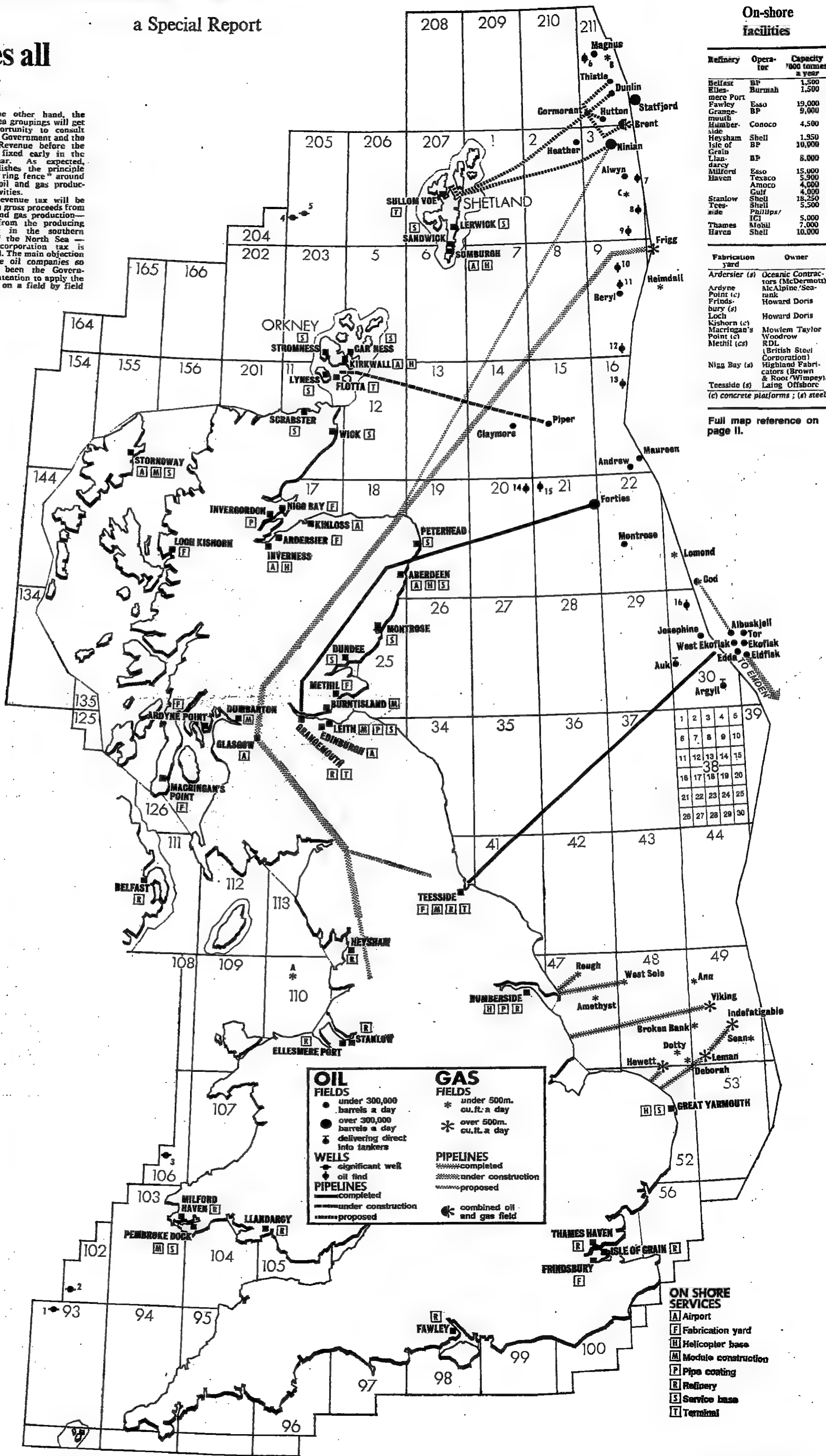
The other factor that could persuade some companies that a government stake in the North Sea oil business would be beneficial is the price of oil. It is estimated that the production cost of a barrel of oil from the North Sea will be between \$4 and \$5, still leaving a handsome margin between the cost, including transport, of a barrel of imported oil at \$12-\$14.

If ever the North Sea, and particularly the smaller fields, became an uneconomic proposition, state participation would be essential to ensure their continued operation since they would still be an important source of saving on foreign exchange.

Oil company reaction to the publication of the Oil Taxation Bill last month has also been hostile. The proposed legislation does nothing to remove the uncertainties surrounding the North Sea operations as the actual rate for the new petroleum revenues tax on the gross proceeds from oil and gas operations has not been announced.

On the other hand, the North Sea groupings will get the opportunity to consult with the Government and the Inland Revenue before the rate is fixed early in the new year. As expected, it establishes the principle of the "ring fence" around British oil and gas production activities.

The revenue tax will be levied on gross proceeds from all oil and gas production, except from the producing gasfields in the southern basin of the North Sea — before corporation tax is deducted. The main objection from the oil companies so far has been the Government's intention to apply the new tax on a field by field basis.



On-shore facilities

Refinery	Operator	Capacity '000 tonnes a year
Belfast	BP	1,500
Ellesmere Port	Burmah	1,500
Fawley	BP	19,000
Grain	BP	9,000
Hammerhead	Conoco	4,500
Heysham	Shell	1,950
Isle of Grain	BP	10,000
Llandarcy	BP	8,000
Millford Haven	Esso	15,000
Texaco	Esso	5,900
Amoco	Esso	4,000
Shell	Esso	4,000
Stanlow	Shell	18,250
Teesside	Shell	5,500
Thames Haven	ICI	5,000
Shell	ICI	7,000
Shell	ICI	10,000

Fabrication yard	Owner
Ardsier (s)	Oceanic Contractors (McDermott)
Ardsier (s)	McAlpine/Seabank
Frindsbury (s)	Howard Doris
Loch Kishorn (s)	Howard Doris
Marrington's Point (s)	Mowlem Taylor
Methil (s)	Woodrow RDL (British Steel Corporation)
Nigg Bay (s)	Highland Fabricators (Brown & Root/Wimpey)
Teesside (s)	Laing Offshore

Full map reference on page 11.

Map drawn by Ted Sharpley; research by Roger Vielvoys and Richard Sachs.

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Issued by the Department of Energy.

Costs float up as steel drives down

by Roger Vielvoye

Living on a giant, semi-submersible rig drilling for oil in the heaving waters of the North Sea could never be described as glamorous. But as the importance of North Sea oil to the future economic well-being of the country has become apparent, a mystique has grown up around the cold and dirty work of drilling into the waves.

For the first time this summer, the glare of publicity has switched from the explorers to a new type of offshore activity—the installation of permanent facilities in the North Sea to submerge the oil and gas from their submarine reservoirs and feed them into the oil-hungry United Kingdom market. Most significant of the developments was the elaborate programme by British Petroleum to install the first two oil production platforms on its Forties oilfield. Steel jackets, 420ft high, had to be floated out to the oilfield, about 110 miles east of Aberdeen, from their construction yards on Teesside and at Nigg Bay in Ross and Cromarty.

The operation was one of particular importance in the task of bringing North Sea oil ashore. No one had attempted previously to float out such massive steel structures in water depths of more than 300 ft. However, in spite of a number of minor technical snags, the operation to float out the jackets, then sink them into a vertical position and sink them to the seabed so that only a few feet were protruding through the waves, was a success.

Giant floating cranes then drove steel piles into the seabed to secure the platforms and a crash programme was mounted through the autumn to ensure that the modules containing the drilling and other processing equipment were lifted on to the top of the jacket before winter storms made working impossible.

Shell/Esso also completed the installation of a much smaller production platform on its Auk field. While BP has built a pipeline to pump 400,000 barrels of oil a day out of the Forties, Auk is a much smaller field where Shell/Esso is using a different method of production. Oil will be fed direct from the platform into tankers by means of a special mooring buoy, installed this summer.

Not all the installations in the North Sea this year have gone so smoothly. A French-built steel platform being manoeuvred into its final position on the Frigg gas field sank after part of its flotation equipment failed. The structure has since been refloated and positioned properly. The overall success of the summer and autumn, however, has proved that the

equipment designed for the first stage of the North Sea oil development can be installed effectively.

Two more steel platforms for the Forties field and similar structures for the Piper and Brent fields are under construction and will be installed next summer. The next development will be next year when the first of the concrete oil production platforms is installed. Five of these structures, some weighing up to 400,000 tonnes, are being built in Norway and the United Kingdom for delivery next year.

Britain aims to be self-sufficient in oil production by 1980. The Department of Energy's assessment of production by this date, issued in May, is an output rate of 100 million to 150 million tons a year, compared with current annual imports of about 100 million tons. It also estimates that United Kingdom offshore waters are capable of maintaining production at 150 million tons a year (three million barrels a day) throughout the 1980s.

Since the estimate was made it has become apparent that the industry will do well to reach the lower range of production estimated by the Government. World shortages of materials, labour problems and general difficulties with producing equipment to the standards needed for the North Sea have contributed to a falling behind in production schedules for offshore oil.

These delays, combined with rapid inflation, have led to spectacular increases in the cost of fields already under development. BP's Forties field, originally budgeted at £16m is now likely to cost more than £620m. BP had the advantage of ordering a large part of the steel for the project before the shortages and inflation made their presence so strongly felt. Shell/Esso's Brent development is likely to cost more than £1,000m.

The industry index for field development is measured in the cost of getting a barrel of oil ashore. BP started the Forties development working on the basis of £1,000 a barrel. The figure is now about £1,500 and Shell/Esso is talking in terms of £2,000 a barrel for Brent. Foreigners getting their way are carrying the full brunt of the unfavourable conditions and the BP/Burmah figure for the development of Ninian could be £3,000 a barrel.

As well as increasing overall costs, project postponements mean delays in obtaining revenues from the field. Mr A. Hols, of Shell, said recently a year's slippage could mean a cash loss of 60 cents a barrel for a small field with a plateau output of 15,000 barrels a day, or 20 cents for a field with a plateau output of 150,000 barrels a day.

Companies must also make provision for the increased cost of installing platforms in deeper water. Esso Petroleum said the shallow water platforms in 100ft to 120ft in the southern North Sea were installed in the 1967-71 period for less than £2m each. For a platform in 275ft the cost rose to £11m and increased according to the water depth to more than £50m for a platform in 500ft of water, ordered for installation in 1977.

The company also quoted the example of a concrete platform, ordered in December, 1973, which is expected to cost about £37m, against a platform of the same design for 35ft deeper water. This was ordered six months later and is expected to cost £54m. Pipelines are also subject to rising costs. Esso said the installed cost of a 30in pipeline in the southern area in 1973 was about 50 per cent higher than in 1970 and the cost of future lines will increase further, largely because of an expected 400 per cent to 500 per cent increase between 1970 and 1976-77 in lay barge costs a day.

Esso finds that offshore pipeline costs are sensitive to

continued on page IV

Significant oil wells
93/2: BP (1 on map).
102/28: Shell (2).
106/24: Atlantic Richfield (3).
205/21: Shell (4).
205/22: BP/Chevron/ICI (5).
Unnamed oil finds
211/11: Atlantic Richfield group (6 on map).
3/15: Total Marine group (7).
3/25: Total Marine group (8).
3/29: BP/National Iranian Oil Co (9).
9/8: Hamilton Bros group (10).
9/13: Mobil group (11).
16/8: Shell/Esso (12).
20/5: Texaco (14).
21/1: Transworld group (15).
30/2: Hamilton Bros group (16).

Other gas finds
Amethyst (47/14): Burmah 32%, ICI 32%, Canadian Industrial Gas 20%, Ocean Drilling and Exploration 6%, Amco Johnson 4%.
Ang (48/6): Phillips group.
Broken Bank (49/21): Conoco 25%, NCB 25%, Arco 12.5%, Cities Service 12.5%, Marathon 12.5%, Burmah 12.5%.
Deborah (48/30): Phillips group.
Dotty (48/29/30): Phillips group.
Lonsdale (23/21): British Gas 50%, Amoco 22.22%, Amerada 16.66%, Texas Eastern 11.11%.
Seasol (48/25): Esso 25%, Shell 25%, Allied Chemicals 25%, NCB 25%.

Unnamed gas finds (UK)
110/2/7: Hydrocarbons Great Britain (A on map).
211/13: Shell/Esso (B).
3/19: Total Marine group (C).

Operators, output and capacity of oil and gas fields (see map on page I)

UK sector (oil)		Operators	Peak production (barrels a day)	Reserves (million barrels)	Progress to date	On stream
Field	Block					
Alwyn	3/14	Total Marine 33.33%, Aquitaine 22.22%, Elf 44.45%			Option on one concrete platform	First oil, 1977
Andrew	16/26	BP 100%				
Argyll	30/24	Hamilton Bros GB 25.8%, Hamilton Bros Petroleum 7.2%, Texaco 24%, RTZ 25%, Blackfriars 12.5%, TransEuropean 3.3%	40,000	120	Production direct to tanker, via converted drilling rig	Early 1977
Auk	30/16	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	40,000	100	Steel platform and tanker loading buoy installed	Spring 1977
Beryl	9/13	Mobil 50%, Amerada 20%, Texas Eastern 20%, British Gas 10%	150,000	750	One concrete platform ordered	Mid 1977
Brent	211/25	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	500,000	2,250	Four platforms ordered (three concrete, one steel)	First oil, 1977 (full product 1980)
Claymore	14/19	Occidental 36.5%, Allied Chemical 23.5%, Gerry Oil 20%, Thomson Scottish Petroleum 20%	100,000	500	One steel platform ordered	1977
Cormorant	211/26	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	100,000	750	One concrete platform ordered	First oil, full output 1977
Dunlin	211/23	Shell 50%, Esso 50%			One concrete platform ordered; member Brent pipeline system	First oil, 1977
Extension	211/24	Conoco 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%, NCB 33.33%	200,000	1,000		
Forties	211/10	BP 100%	400,000	2,000	Two platforms installed, two under construction—all steel	Phase one, 1975; phase 1976
Heather	3/3	Union Oil of California 31.25%, Skelly 31.25%, Tenneco 31.25%, Norwegian Oil DNO 6.25%	150,000	750		
Hutton	211/28	Conoco 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%, NCB 33.33%, Amoco 25.77%, British Gas 25.77%, Amerada 18.08%, Mobil 20%, Texas Eastern 10.38%	150,000	750	Platform tenders arrived	1977/78
Extension	211/27	Amoco 25.77%, British Gas 25.77%, Amerada 18.08%, Mobil 20%, Texas Eastern 10.38%				
Josephine	30/13	Phillips 25%, Petroleum 30%, Agip 15%, Century Light and Power 7.22%, Halkyn 4.25%, Placcon 4.25%, Oil Exploration 4.25%	50,000	250		
Magnus	211/12	BP	150,000-200,000	750-1,000		
Maureen	16/29	Phillips 33.78%, Elf 28.56%, Agip 17.56%, Century Light and Power 9%, Ultramar 6%, B.E.T. 5%	100,000	500	Platform tenders invited	First oil, 1978
Montrose	22/17	Amoco 30.77%, British Gas 30.77%, Esso 30.77%, Amerada 23.08%, Texas Eastern 15.38%	50,000	250	One steel platform ordered	1976
Extension	22/18					
Ninian	3/8	BP 50%, Ranger group 50%				
Extension	3/3	Burmah 30%, ICI 26%, Chevron 24%, Murphy 10%, Ocean Exploration 10%	450,000	1,500	Two platforms ordered (one concrete, one steel); another possible pipeline ordered from Japan	1976
Piper	15/17	Occidental 36.5%, Allied Chemical 23.5%, Gerry Oil 20%, Thomson Scottish Petroleum 20%	250,000	640	One steel platform ordered; pipeline almost complete	1975
Thistle	211/18	Burmah 24%, Santa Fe 22.50%, Union Pacific 22.50%, United Canso 20%, Tiscantrol 10%, Charterhouse 1%, NCB 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%	20,000	1,000	One steel platform ordered	First oil, 1979
Extension	211/19					

Norwegian sector (oil)

Field	Block	Operators	Output (million cu ft a day)	Reserves (million cu ft)	Progress to date	On stream
Alboskell	3/4	Phillips 36.96%, Petrofina 30%, Agip 13.04%, Petrobrás 20%, Shell			Two steel platforms ordered	
Extensions	1/6					
Cod	7/11	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Edda	2/7	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Ekofisk	2/4	Phillips group			Production complete; installed; output began 1971	
Ekofisk	2/4	Phillips group			Two steel platforms ordered	First oil, 1977
Eldfisk	3/7	Phillips group				
Tor	2/4	Phillips group				
Extensions	2/5	Phillips group				
West Ekofisk	3/4	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Statfjord	33/9	Statoli 30%, Mobil 15%, Esso 10%, Shell 10%, Conoco 10%, Amoco/Saga 5%	500,000	3,000	One concrete platform ordered	1978

UK sector (gas)

Field	Block	Operators	Output (million cu ft a day)	Reserves (million cu ft)	Progress to date	On stream
Brent	211/29	Contract under negotiation between British Gas and Shell/Esso/Texaco	600			
Frigg	10/1	Total Marine group	1,400	7.5		1976-77
Hewlett	48/29	Arpet group	600	4.0		1971
Indefatigable	49/18/23	Amoco 30.77%, British Gas 30.77%, Amerada 23.08%, Texas Eastern 15.38%, Shell 50%, Esso 50%	520	8.0		1971
Leman	49/26	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	1,200	12.5		1968
	49/27	Amoco/British Gas group as above				
	49/28	Atlantic Richfield (Arpet) 33.33%, British Sun 23.33%, North Sea Explorational Research 10%, Sinclair 10%, Superior Oil 20%, Canadian Superior 3.33%				
Rough	47/8	British Gas 50%, Amoco 22.2%, Amerada 16.7%, Texas Eastern 11.1%	150			Late 1977
Viking	49/17	Conoco 50%	540	5.0		1972
West Sole	48/6	BP	300	1.0		1967

Norwegian sector (gas)

Field	Block	Operators	Output (million cu ft a day)	Reserves (million cu ft)	Progress to date	On stream
Ekofisk area	2/4	Phillips group				1976
Frigg area	25/1/2	North Hydro 32.87%, Total 20.71%, Agip 13.87%, Elf 14.74%, Statoli 5%	1,400	7.5		
Heimdal	25/4	Pan Ocean 36.90%, Fenogryre 20.476%, Syracuse 15.28%, Sundingdale 7.581%, Norsk Hydro 6.920%, Elf 5.814%, Total Marine 4.360%, Aquitaine 2.096%		9.5		
Odin	30/10	Esso				

Block numbers in italic indicate Norwegian acreage

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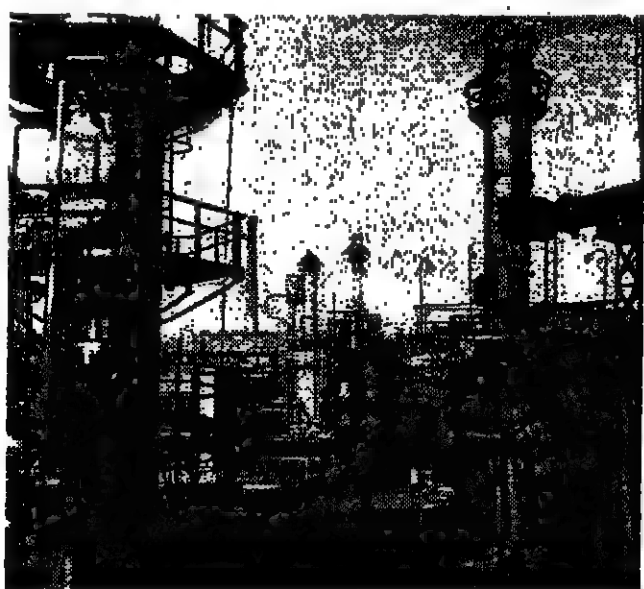
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A long queue for cash in 'Europe's most beautiful oil capital'

by Peter Hill

Mr Charles Jordan is a merchant banker. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, he is based not in the City of London but in Aberdeen, known once as the granite city but now styling itself "Europe's most beautiful oil capital".

It is the oil discovered in huge quantities in the wild waters of the North Sea that has regenerated large tracts of the Scottish east coast—and Aberdeen in particular—and that has attracted Mr Jordan's company, the Charterhouse merchant banking group, to the city.

Mr Jordan is in business to provide and attract capital, and in recent months he has received a steady flow of callers. Young companies, most of them less than two years old (and their executives on the youthful side of 30), have been queuing up for some of the capital that he is keen to introduce into the burgeoning offshore supplies industry. His problem is, of course, that bankers tend to look for a proven five-year financial record before providing the cash to give impetus to a company's further development.

This level of interest is but one illustration of the extent of the complexity and scale of the offshore supply industry.

In the middle of last month the Select Committee on Science and Technology in its report on offshore engineering prefaced its findings with the words: "We have already discovered a wealth of opportunity for energetic British industry. We hope that the Government will understand the exciting challenge of the new territories beneath the seas around us and encourage their exploration

for the good of the whole nation".

Even as the report was being printed Mr Fred Chate, general manager for the northern operations of Shell U K Exploration and Production, warned a conference in Aberdeen that plans made so far for supporting the oil and gas exploration and production operations in the North Sea were probably inadequate and would have to be expanded.

"We are looking at a level of exploration effort that could go on for the next 10 or 15 years and, concurrently with that, an increasing build-up in production effort", he said.

The scale is enormous enough already. On the basis of the most recent government estimates, total proven reserves of oil amount to some 1,290 million tons (this figure is being revised upwards almost monthly) and the exploration and development effort involved in terms of financial requirements is vast. One recent survey calculated that over the next decade capital requirements would amount to some £10,000m—excluding exploration in the Celtic Sea and the area west of the Shetlands.

Against these figures it is worth noting that total capital expenditure by British manufacturing industry in 1973 was some £1,900m. It is now reckoned that the value of the United Kingdom offshore market alone is already £500m a year and is rising rapidly.

Despite its slow start, British industry is now carving out a much greater share of supplying and servicing this huge industry. Although, in its submission earlier this year to the select committee, the Association of British Oceanic Industries noted that business arising

out of the United Kingdom offshore oil and gas exploration effort represented only about 10 per cent of the present international offshore industry, it is nevertheless a sizable and growing proportion.

British industry is already playing an important part in supplying equipment to the offshore oil industry, extending from production platforms and pipes to valves and compressors. Earlier this year it was calculated by the Department of Energy that some 55 major contractors, 800 sub-contractors and 2,000 other companies were involved in supplying goods and services to 13 priority offshore projects.

British-registered companies are, in the aggregate, now estimated to be supplying about 50 per cent of all offshore orders, although the Offshore Supplies Office in its estimates did not disclose the scale of foreign subcontracts within its assessment of business derived from prime contractors.

In some directions British companies are setting the pace. The lower Clyde shipbuilding group of Scott Lithgow, for example, is now building a series of advanced computer-controlled dynamically positioning drill-ships, while the Wigham group is filling a valuable niche in the highly competitive environment of seabed engineering.

At a more mundane, but nevertheless vital, level the servicing of the offshore oil and gas industry has developed into a prosperous and profitable activity. The ports' industry capital investment programme reflects the new levels of activity in several ports which until the oil boom were in decline or static. Supply boats ply a regular service between the

shore bases and the rigs operating in the stormy waters of the North Sea. One recent study indicated that there were some 60 supply vessels at present operating in the North Sea, and for 1974-75 the number is projected at more than 200 by the end of the present decade.

These craft keep the rigs operating, ferrying supplies which for the continuous working of a single rig could involve a daily average tonnage of about 60. This will cover, among other items, fuel oil, drilling mud and chemicals, steel casing, cement, food and water, clothes and general stores. It will probably involve the supply vessel in between 20 and 30 round trips in a month.

Generally two supply ships are required to support the activities of one rig and, with the pace of exploration and development quickening, the number of supply ship operators is growing steadily.

At present there are well over 200 supply ships on order with shipyards throughout the world, with 27 out of the 52 ordered by European-based owners being built in British yards. (These represent a useful

boost to British shipbuilders, given that the present cost of such supply ships is between £1m and £1.5m each.)

The transporting of the men who operate the rigs is largely in the hands of companies operating helicopter services, dominated by British Airways Helicopters and Bristol Helicopters, and both the helicopter with its human cargo and the supply boat with its essential materials are vital to the effective, economic and efficient operation of the rigs and platforms.

Recognizing the importance of the supply boat to the North Sea, the Department of Energy has just commissioned a new study of supply and demand for certain types of boats and ships required for servicing and maintaining mobile rigs and fixed platforms. An earlier investigation indicated that there could well be a shortage of large ocean-going tugs required for the installation of the huge concrete production platforms, and the latest investigation will examine this aspect again.

It will also embrace vessels involved in towing, anchor handling, pipe carrying, general supply, diving support and seabed core sampling.

Throughout British industry, therefore, the requirements of the North Sea in supplies of both equipment and services will be of crucial importance in the years ahead. A small start, and a useful one, has firms.

Estimated value of offshore market up to 1980 (£m)		
	Capital costs*	Costs
Surveying (inc 12 survey vessels)	20	42
Offshore exploration and drilling (inc 50 rigs, 5 ships)	600	343
Offshore production (inc 42 platforms)	1,079.4	
Pipeline and loading facilities (inc 10 lay, derrick barges, 1,500 miles of pipeline, 12 single point mooring buoys, 5 storage/loading spars)	660.4	53
Offshore services (inc 180 supply vessels, 80 rig tenders, 8 repair ships)	269	29
Diving equipment and services (inc 90 diving systems)	14.7	18
Submersibles	6.4	4
*inc repairs and maintenance	2,649.9	1,441

These estimates, which the Association of British Oceanic Industries submitted early this year to the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, are based on the value of the pound at the end of 1973. They do not take into account technological advances, such as seabed completion systems, that have occurred since then; nor do they include research and development for construction materials, so operations (such as are required in the event of collapsed forms or ruptured storage tanks or pipelines) or measure controlling marine pollution.

Costs float up as steel drives down

continued from page 11

weather conditions and depth of water. A 36-in pipeline in 400ft to 500ft of water in the northern area, laid in 1976, will cost £800,000 a mile—more than five times as much as a 30-in line laid in 100ft in 1970. The main reason is the limited number of days that a lay barge can work each year in

northern area weather conditions.

Rising costs could be pronounced in future exploration drilling programmes. Companies naturally drill their most attractive geological prospects first and are moving into the stage where second rank structures are being probed. As a result, the success rate could decline and smaller fields be discovered,

rather than giants like Forties, Brent and Ninian.

Estimates for the cost of drilling produced by Esso show that the average cost of drilling exploratory wells including rig cost has increased from about £5,700 a day for a jack-up rig in 1972 to more than £20,000 a day for a large semi-submersible in 1974. Recent inquiries of rig owners indicate higher costs

The risk shadowing our chance of real prosperity

by C. M. Woodhouse

It is clear that most British industrialists, as well as politicians, trade unionists and the general public, have failed to appreciate the real influence that offshore crude oil resources can have on the United Kingdom economy and the standard of living of everyone. The level of our future prosperity depends largely on what happens to this oil after it has been converted into petroleum chemicals.

The flood of confirmed finds reported in recent months has led to revised estimates between 5,500 million and 10,000 million tons of recoverable North Sea crude in the United Kingdom sector, lasting well into the next century. Viewed against current consumption of approximately 100 million tons a year it is all but certain that this country will be self-sufficient in crude oil and natural gas within the next five years, and from the early 1980s could become a net exporter.

However, too many people still seem unaware that offshore oil has changed from being simply a bonus and has become something that means real prosperity. Even

now they appear to regard the future availability of home-produced crude oil as no more than a means to maintain our standard of living. This indeed may well be the best we can hope for, unless we have the foresight to start planning the additional manufacturing facilities which will be needed to process all the raw materials which derive from crude oil.

The history of natural gas provides a pointer to what will surely happen with offshore oil. Over the five-year period from the beginning of 1968 the United Kingdom consumption of gas produced from all sources almost doubled. But more important, as a result of the discoveries in the North Sea, the proportion of natural gas increased from 10 per cent to 90 per cent of the total consumption over that same period. If industry now hesitates to make provision for a similar increase with offshore oil it will be doing the country a disservice from which all will suffer.

While it is relevant to mention in passing the proved contribution of natural gas and the speed at which it has been developed, gas has a limited value to industry, being used, largely as a source of energy. Crude oil is a different matter. The multifarious properties of oil are of great importance outside energy uses, and any industrialist whose vision extends beyond his backyard fence should have as his target the conversion of all the raw materials oil provides into finished goods within this country—finished goods which range from high protein foods to glass fibre car bodies, from pharmaceuticals and cosmetics to man-made fibre textiles and carpets, and from nitrogenous fertilizers and agricultural sprays to packaging materials and detergents.

The effect on employment

The monetary benefit which can be derived from manufacturing and exporting finished consumer goods is two or three times that which can be gained by exporting the chemical fractions, and eight to 10 times greater than selling oil as crude.

Nor must sight be lost of the effect on employment of converting crude into consumer products. Industries in the United Kingdom have technologists capable of exploiting the properties of every oil derivative to the full. If planning is not initiated now, by the early 1980s a large number of people could well be out of work or on short time, while a minimal profit will be made from the export of crude and fractions.

Capacity already exists for refining between 30 and 40 per cent more crude oil than will be needed to meet Britain's total petrol and fuel oil requirements by 1980-81. So the construction and plant manufacturing industries, the nature of things, will have to provide the production capacity required if Britain is to take advantage of the top-slice of profit which can be derived from processing the "non-energy" fractions.

But to plan, design, build, equip and staff a new manufacturing facility and for it

to become fully profitable takes three to five years, and 1980 is now only five years away.

In the past two years the construction and plant manufacturing industries have been afflicted by fluctuation in demand of a magnitude that has dwarfed anything previously recorded in peace time. It is accepted generally that there will be new upward trend in a year, or at the most in two years time.

If to this is added a crash programme all the more urgent for having been delayed, to provide new manufacturing facilities to take advantage of the opportunities offered by offshore oil, then serious overheating in both these industries is bound to occur, occasioning delays, material and labour shortages and disproportionately escalating costs. This is a second reason why planning must get under way now, but who will set the ball rolling?

Events in the past few months have clearly shown that the likelihood of the Government on its own being willing or able to undertake this restructuring of industry is remote. World-wide inflation, high taxation, price restraint policies and resulting cash flow problems have severely weakened industry. The attitude of the taxpayer is expected to be to recognise only the short-term situation.

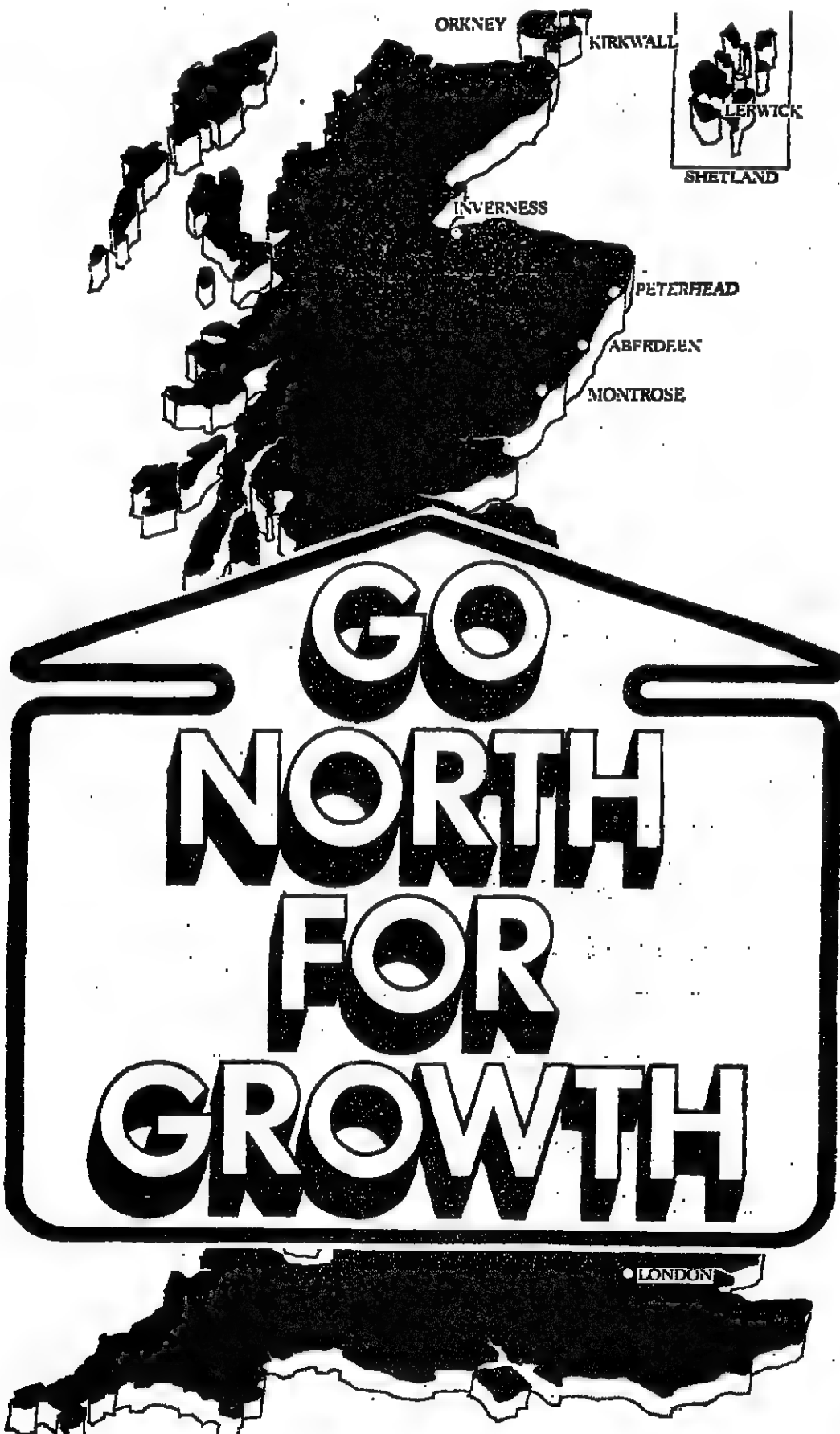
The Government must lead

However, the Government must be prepared to give the lead and to underwrite some of the risks involved, and the Trades Union Congress must appreciate the benefits to its members in securing future full employment and a rising standard of living. Equally industry must be prepared to play its role as the main creator of the nation's wealth and standard of living.

When planning a new production complex, experience has shown the necessity of forming from the outset a highly qualified, fully experienced team including general and financial managers, shop floor staff, planners, designers and builders, and plant manufacturers. To plan to take full advantage of offshore oil, a national team representing the Government, the Confederation of British Industry, the TUC and the building and plant manufacturing industries is urgently needed.

This team will need substantial executive powers to formulate policy, allocate financial and other resources, and ensure that short-term problems are not allowed to prejudice the longer-term national strategy. If on the other hand the opportunities are allowed to go by default and the Government, management and the unions are content to muddle along when the end of the balance of payments problem is in sight, then the penalty in terms of the British standard of living will be crippling.

The author, a director of the IDC Group, was Conservative MP for Oxford from 1959-66 and from 1970 until the last general election. He is a former director of education and training at the CBI.



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The Evening Express has a household penetration of more than 80% in Aberdeen, the centre from which most oil developments are directed.

Contact: Bob Gerbert in London on 01-387 2800 or Ken Robb in Aberdeen on 0224 40222.

Source: ABC Sales January-June 1974. Readership of North Scotland 1974. Thomson Regional Newspapers Limited/Research Services Limited.

The PRESS and JOURNAL EVENING EXPRESS

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The pictures, taken by Mark Edwards shortly before the close of this year's "weather window" show men working on Sea Quest, Britain's only semi-submersible exploration platform. Commissioned by BP in 1966, it is present in Holland undergoing its third major refit.

50 a minute to defy the winter's rigours

By David Faux

Powerful Sikorsky helicopter had decided to jam open the weather window and work on the good weather days between now and next spring.

Glancing at a sheet of statistics, Mr Lanning announced that this decision would add £20m to the £600m cost of developing Forties: in other words, up to £400,000 a day, or £250 for every working minute. The operation had already added impressively to the Guinness Book of Records by moving almost 2,000 tons in one lift, using the massive crane on the stern of the Thor. This was the heaviest lift afloat ever made, he claimed.

"Everything out here seems to be a first that we have to get absolutely right," he remarked, with the air of a man surfing ahead of some huge technological breaker.

The man on Thor speeded up to three months on board working when the weather allows in 12-hour shifts. According to Mr Roy Jenkins, an American oil man who works at Mr Lanning's right hand, careful selection of workers is crucial. "A man has got to fit in properly out here. It can be hard. If he doesn't fit, he is not invited back."

There are more than 2,000 men at work in the small, monastic and liquorless world of the North Sea rigs. "When the weather is reasonable, you work damned hard. When it is bad the wind really comes at you and we all expect one of those 94-ft waves that are supposed to come once a century. The platforms are designed to stand them," a rig worker said.

Everything is provided and there is nothing to spend money on, so a skilled man may return ashore after a long spell on duty with £1,000 or more in his bank account. The only luxury is the food, with lobster following the finest steak.

It costs between £3 and £4 a day to feed one man on an oil rig. Superb food is about the only indulgence

the contractors can allow their captive work force. There are now some 40 rigs in the North Sea and with the crews of the pipe-laying barges, the total catering market represents business worth more than £5m a year. Ashore and at sea the oil industry moves in impressively big figures.

Inflation and the problems of supplying the rigs have made it difficult for catering firms to meet the high standards demanded and still make a profit. This section of the industry has been marked by heavy losses and takeovers, but the market remains to be met and in the next three years 50 more rigs and platforms are expected in the North Sea with their voracious demands for service which it is hoped will be met by British companies. But in the experience of one supplier, the oil contractors

are hard but fair customers to deal with. The price had to be reasonable and delivery guaranteed.

"This applies to everything from food, bedding and lamp bulbs to the technical supplies," he said. The contractors in the North Sea may be isolated and vulnerable to supply shortages and industrial disputes which could inflate the final cost of extracting the oil. But BP is quietly envied by many other operators because their heavy capital phase was completed before inflation escalated every aspect of the operation.

Costs are rocketing and the Offshore Supplies Office estimates the value of equipment needed by the offshore oil and gas industry has reached £500m a year. Of this, British suppliers are believed to have won 50 per cent. The supplies office, the North-east

of Scotland Development Authority, the Highlands Board, the Scottish Council, banks, joint stock and merchant and all, have between them been gently guiding British industry towards the offshore market, apparently with growing success.

On the Thor the huge jib crane with its forest of steel cables was tenderly lifting a 1,700-ton module on to the production rig pinned to the seabed 4,000 ft below. An error now, through bad timing, could cost tens of thousands of pounds.

No one looked up as the helicopter lifted clear of the Thor and headed back to Aberdeen. Mr Lanning was still on the barge doing his careful sums and guiding the operation. Without him and his tough, laconic kind, North Sea oil would remain a hope locked beneath the seabed.

Riches bring their griefs

The first oil from the British sector of the North Sea has yet to come ashore, but the effects on Scotland have already been positive and far-reaching. Both economically and politically, the energy reserves locked beneath the seabed off the Scottish coast have sparked off a new and welcome prosperity from Cromarty to the Firth of Forth.

The area most dramatically affected has been Aberdeen. The oil industry has fairly stood the granite city on its head and is forcing almost every service in the area to expand. The signs are clear, although still outnumbered by the "hats" from Texas. Aberdeen airport has become the busiest in the British regions and is now the headquarters for British Airways' helicopter operations. Around the airport there has been a rapid spread of industrial estates with many companies directly or indirectly connected with the oil industry. Shell-Esso moved to Aberdeen in the early days of oil development and created a magnet for the rest. The spin-off has already been impressive. Street frontages are being converted into modern principal buildings; big stores have increased; the oil companies plan prestige offices and traders report surging business.

Unemployment rate cut

Where in England are companies talking of 20 years of secure profit ahead? There have been cases of some small companies uprooting from the south and moving into Scotland "for the oil boom".

The investment in new harbour facilities runs into many millions of pounds and the demand for skilled workers has cut unemployment rate to 1.4 per cent. The first sign that oil may become what the world means in Gaelic, been the competition between the oil and the traditional industries for skilled workers. The oil companies have the massive resources to outbid local employers. The cost of a handful of wildcat wells exceeds the budget of the Highlands Board, and oil industry finance is a whale to the local industries' spat.

It may seem curious that Aberdeen still offers development area incentives for manufacturing industries wanting to set up in business there. Companies receive regional employment premium and other help from the Government and this aid is proving an invaluable support when a local manufacturer is forced into competition with an oil contractor. Since oil-related industry is not strictly manufacturing, it does not qualify for regional aid.

Another employer admitted: "We would be in real difficulties without it. The time is approaching when the Government will have to decide whether traditional industry shuts down and Aberdeen relies entirely on oil. There is no lack of orders, we cannot get the workers or afford to keep so many of the ones we do have."

Back in the days of Phase Three some large Aberdeen companies were driving bulldozers through the wage restraint policy in order to stay in business. But the main industry is fishing and

the city is the main base for the Scottish trawling fleet. In recent years the 100 company owned boats have earned spectacularly well and the fish market is being modernized and extended. Rationalization has brought great efficiency and throughout Scotland there are now some 8,000 fishermen, some of them earning between £100 and £120 a week.

This new prosperity is threatened from several directions. The price of fuel is driving up the cost of putting a trawler to sea. European Economic Community laws and limits on fishing areas threaten further to restrict the activities of Scottish fishermen and a levelling-off in fish prices has helped to depress profits.

"All this could make a sharp pin burst the prosperity we have been enjoying," one trawler operator said. "If the industry cannot support the present wage levels, there is a strong chance that some men will drift away into the oil."

As the lines on the graph for cost and profit grow inexorably closer, boats could be forced to lay up and men could be thrown out of work. It had not happened yet, but the signs were there that it could happen.

Peterhead, once a quiet fishing port, now has pipe lines rearing out of the sea to the north and south. The harbour has been enlarged and it is busy with ships bringing the oil rigs 100 miles and more away. The fishing fleet fits into the thriving pattern of activity but, perhaps significantly, a fishing boat was recently turned away from the harbour and diverted to Aberdeen. There was no room in Peterhead for it to tie up and unload.

Any population drift from the region has ended. In the Highlands there are suggestions that the black oil will prove a modern equivalent of the Cheviot sheep and the hunted stag which in earlier years represented ruin to local communities. They fear the oil companies will take all the profit and leave Scotland with all the scars.

The Government firmly rejects this possibility and seems determined on driving a deal of excitement and business with the oil companies. Shetland County Council promoted its own Bill to give local control over oil developments in the islands. They have also made other agreements designed to make the maximum local benefit from this giant which has emerged from the sea.

It will be interesting to see how this legislation will stand alongside the Government's latest proposed measures for taking over land for oil-related development. Mr Bruce Millan, Minister of State at the Scottish Office who is responsible for oil, sees no cause for regret in the oil discoveries. Already, he said, the Scottish rate of unemployment was improving against that of England and a population loss of 45,000 a year 10 years ago had been turned into a net gain of 5,000 last year—the first real gain for 40 years. The change in fortunes had been wrought by the exploitation of North Sea oil. This new industry had radically changed the whole of Scotland's industrial and social future.

Well over 500 companies in Scotland had already secured part of the new boom. The public sector aimed to build more than

10,000 houses for workers in oil-related industry within the next four years. This was an investment of more than £100m. The Scottish Special Housing Association's oil-related programme for 1973-78 comprised about 4,600 houses, or a direct central government investment of some £55m.

Roads were being modernized—the notorious A9 between Perth and Inver Gordon at a cost of £100m. Another £14m was being spent on improving airports in north and east Scotland, and airports along the east coast would receive a £17m modernization. The Government, Mr Millan says, is investing in Scotland's future in a big way.

In social terms it is unfortunate that all the oil has been discovered off the east coast of Scotland, which generally has less need for such prosperity than the west. There the harsh problems created by two world wars and earlier devastating policies still linger.

Glasgow had some of the worst slums in Europe and has some of the oldest and most vulnerable industry. The region of the Highlands and Islands in the west has few opportunities to offer its young people who may want to live there but cannot. The pattern is still of a dwindling population and a style of life which offers little material return yet suffers the expense of being remote.

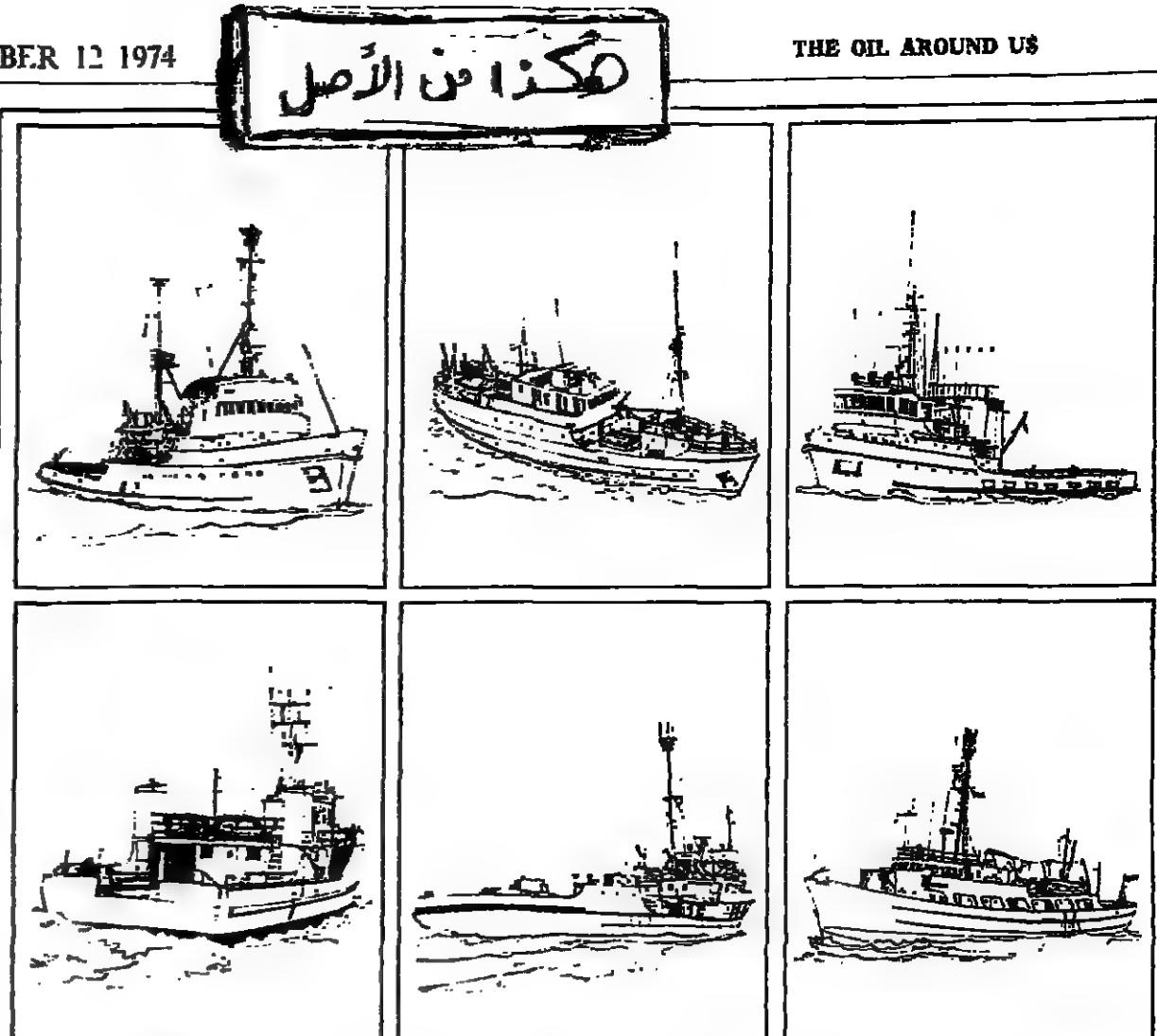
More mobility needed

The oil platform builders were rejected from Drumblair but have been allowed to set up at Loch Kishorn on the opposite shore of Loch Carron in Wester Ross. Ardyne Point on the Clyde, where the McAlpine sea tank consortium have invested more than £5m in a huge platform yard, could help the unemployment levels in west central Scotland if the workforce was prepared to be more mobile.

There are other sites on the Clyde under negotiation. It is hoped that they will attract more of the oil wealth and soften this growing picture of Scotland as a divided nation with an affluent east and an economically struggling west.

The industry has fitted into the Scottish scene most easily at such locations as Ardsheir, which is conveniently close to Inverness and Nairn and yet is visually isolated from both. The Highlands Fabricators yard at Nigg, near the mouth of Cromarty Firth, lies in a landscape so spectacularly broad that the cranes and massive units of steel are swallowed up. So, too, is the shining metal of an aluminium works. A refinery is planned there as well, if a public inquiry turns down the 500 objections.

Yet for all this large-scale, farming industry it could be argued that the landscape of Easter Ross has barely been scratched by such a sudden influx of industry wanting to use its flat shores and deep, sheltered waters. For the people in Cromarty, Achness, Invergordon and Tain, oil may be a cause for short-term inconvenience but not, on present evidence, for long-term grief.



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Hard climb up engineering 'ladder' to win seabed riches

by Jack A. Davis
Petroleum International

The North Sea means something special to us in Britain because it will supply all of our hydrocarbon energy requirements, give or take a barrel, by 1980. To the oil industry, used though it is to bringing off ambitious oil production ventures around the world, the North Sea also has a significance. This climatically hostile continental shelf area has become a ladder with rungs of technological innovation and development. The companies working to get oil and gas out of the North Sea have been forced to climb this engineering ladder. Formidable offshore production costs, the weather, environmental considerations and sheer pioneering attitudes have compelled the industry to make the technical ascent or try their luck elsewhere. Nearly all the international oil companies have chosen to stay and persevere.

The North Sea, unequalled for its long periods of brutal weather, has presented the companies with a vast new oil production engineering specifications book. Technological innovation, improvement and complex cost-awareness calculations have been demanded from those companies operating in the North Sea, as in no other offshore area in the world. The case of the North Sea, incidentally, is setting similarly stringent technical requirements, because of the climate; but the one benefit here is that they are onshore.

In almost every aspect connected with exploration and production the North Sea has demonstrated its ability to send designers and civil and marine engineers back to their drawing boards to devise bigger, stronger and safer methods of production. There are three basic parameters which govern all operations off our eastern coastline: winds, waves, and

seabed conditions. The first two are irrevocably entwined. But intimate knowledge of all three is essential for the design and installation of offshore structures and pipelines. Before the oil industry started studying the North Sea, little was known about the environment and almost nothing about the seabed conditions far offshore. Granted there was little or no incentive, apart from the thirst for knowledge, so the area had plenty of surprises in store for the oilmen when they came to work in it.

Using weather ships and daily weather reports from the drilling rigs, the oil industry is compiling data, day-by-day, on what wind speeds, wave heights and wave forces are being experienced in many different areas of the North Sea. The industry needs to know so offshore production can be designed to withstand the weather. But the stress analysis wants to know what forces to design to and the difficulty is in extrapolating how bad a storm is likely to be experienced during the life of the oilfield. Not an easy task, and complicated by the desire not to spend more money than is necessary by over-designing.

Steel production platforms are piled into the seabed, down to about 250ft below the mud line in the case of the largest units, and the engineers have to know the load-bearing characteristics of the seabed. Extensive work is being carried out by soil mechanics experts, using new techniques, to sample the sub-seabed layers and to profile the various thicknesses of mud, boulder clay, and sands in the North Sea. Drilling the huge 54in diameter piles 250ft into the seabed has also called for new technology. The world's biggest pile hammer has had to be designed and built, with a rating of 7,000ft a lb, specially for the North Sea operations.

When the pile is in place, new colloidal types of grout have been developed to ensure the highest possible steel-to-steel bond strengths between the pile and the pile sleeve on the platform. For the first time breech-block connectors have been designed and built for the 54in diameter piles. Offshore jacket structures made of steel contain many nodes, points at which several tubular members meet. The Forties field platforms for British Petroleum involved a number of these complicated welding of the highest order. Now, for the second two platforms, under construction, BP has redesigned the nodes to give lower stress concentrations. The first nodes were fabricated of steel with a maximum thickness of 2 1/2 in. and were heavily stiffened inside. The new node design makes use of thick walled steel, up to 5 in thick, and no internal ring stiffeners.

The project has involved many hours of stress analysis and welding, research, and considerable cost. In seeking the solution to a problem which had never arisen before production platforms were designed for the North Sea. Because of the excessive stresses across the grain of the steel at these node joints, engineers have begun to use through-thickness strength steels for the first time in this application. Offshore pipeline laying and protection have also been technically advanced by North Sea operations. The concrete coating of offshore pipelines really a weight saving, but concrete mixes have been specially designed for the North Sea which give protection against violent physical damage, perhaps from a trawl board or dragging anchor.

A concrete mix devised by BP for its Forties pipelines has high-impact resistance characteristics and is therefore more expensive than any previously used on an offshore pipeline. Another new concrete mix is on the way which incorporates iron ore and millions of small steel reinforcing fibres which are said to give a high strength to the coating. Because these concrete coatings are strong and therefore rigid and because offshore pipelines have to follow an S curve when they are laid from the sea surface, narrow grooves have to be cut around the coating so that it can flex without cracking. At first these grooves were sawn with diamond-tipped saws once the concrete had set. Now even newer pipeline technology cuts the groove with a fine jet of water, while the concrete is still setting.

Another new piece of offshore pipeline technology has just had its first try-out. This was the mid-point connection of the 32in, 110-mile Forties pipeline laid from the shore and from the field towards the middle. A welded tie-in of this magnitude had never been attempted before in 330ft of water. Considerable prior engineering studies were involved and the net result is that new equipment and techniques were used for the first time in the North Sea. In the operation the two ends of the pipeline were picked up from the sea floor, welded together, then lowered back again. This sounds simple enough, but before the operation took place the relevant loads and stresses had to be analysed in great detail and much new information amassed about joining pipelines in deep water. At the join-up, a welded connection, half a mile of coated pipe was lifted and held off the miles away.

But although the ability there, it is doubtful if necessary additional ware will be added to platforms yet. The oil pannes are faced with ing to man their off facilities with enough ple to deal with any gency that might Therefore the coacer unwanted oil prod platforms in the s North Sea is not acce under present condior Divers are essential i North Sea operations the use of midget marines, rather than bells which have a physical umbilical, or ion to a mother ship further this technok great deal. Diving operations long and hazardous, are required at many during the constructi production facilities offshore oilfield. technology being dev and refined for the North Sea will have potential application around the world. Video tapes are also used by these submari film the parts of the water structures; the engineers want to i North Sea engineers and do, as down in submarines, another departure, but the benefit is that the tapes can be studied sure back in the on ing departments by pairs of experienced For every day a of pany uses an offshir struction barge man of £30,000 in £40,0 video tape studio, home-based engineer help to reduce the involved in undi operations then the can be considerable.

Post Office improves links between rigs and land

by Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

A new requirement has arisen in the North Sea oil and gas fields for improved and expanded communications between the offshore platforms and onshore terminals. New services are being introduced by the Post Office, new technology is being applied, and a new industrial effort is being made to meet this specialized market.

Among the first special services to be provided by the Post Office for the oil and gas fields were new high-frequency radio facilities at the corporation's coastal stations at Humber, Stonehaven, near Aberdeen, and Norwich in the Shetland Isles. These provided exclusive teleprinter channels and shared telephone channels for the rigs; they were an extension of the existing maritime radiotelephony services.

Since 1965 mobile drill-rigs, support and supply vessels, and pipe-layers have been using these conventional Post Office services. A major development designed to cope with the oil production platform in 1975, was announced by Mr Edward Fennessy, managing director of Post Office Telecommunications, just over a year ago.

The new programme, costing £5m, was to provide reliable, high-quality communications for the North Sea gas and oil production platforms. It would involve the construction of two new £300,000 radio stations, one at Scousburgh in the Shetlands and the other at Mormond Hill, 30 miles north of Aberdeen.

These sites are strategically placed to serve production areas from the Forties oilfield off Aberdeen, the Brent and other oilfields north and west of the Shetlands.

Because many of the gas and oilfields are well out of sight of land, the Post Office's North Sea Task Force chose an over-the-horizon technique of radio transmission known as tropospheric scatter. This has been used in defence communications and was being introduced for certain private systems in the North Sea, but it was new to the Post Office.

In this type of system a narrow beam of microwave energy is transmitted, at most parallel to the ground, towards the receiving station. Part of this energy will be scattered by turbulence in the troposphere, the lower part of the atmosphere.

If this same part of the troposphere can be viewed by the aerial at the receiving station, a weak version of the transmitted signal can be picked up. Special techniques are used to improve the quality of the received signals.

The two new radio stations will provide direct communications to "master" production platforms which, in turn, will relay signals to other platforms in the area by ordinary microwave (line of

sight) links using smaller dish aerials.

These services are planned to start in October, 1975. Initially to the deep-water platforms now being built for the Total, Mobil and Occidental companies. From the Shetlands the Post Office will communicate alternately with the Total Frigg platform or the Mobil Beryl platform. The offshore terminals will be linked by line-of-sight radio to carry circuits to the other company's installation.

From the north-east Scotland terminal the Post Office will communicate alternately with the Total pipeline manifold station or the Occidental Piper platform. Here again there will be line-of-sight links between the offshore terminals. This pattern is expected to be repeated in other areas as the demand grows.

The Post Office land terminals will connect into the United Kingdom national telecommunications network to provide circuits into companies' premises for telephones, teleprinter and data teletext transmissions. Access to the international telex and telephone networks could also enable the platforms to make telex and telephone calls to virtually anywhere in the world.

In a policy statement on North Sea communications, the Post Office said last year: "When interconnection with the Post Office's public telecommunications services is required, the system as a whole must be engineered and operated to Post Office standards and practices to ensure satisfactory performance."

"This will normally make it necessary for the Post Office itself to run at least the shore-based portion of the system. If it proved necessary for the Post Office to become involved in the offshore system, it might also run those parts of the system itself; or act through one of the operators concerned, or act through an agent or subcontractor to those operators."

Private communication links, not involving interconnection with the national network, can be installed by the energy companies themselves, once approval has been given by the Post Office and the Home Office.

Thus British Petroleum and Phillips Petroleum had already initiated their own respective North Sea communication links well before the Post Office announced its £5m scheme. BP's installation, now being implemented, represents the first commercial application of a tropospheric-scatter system in the United Kingdom, and is claimed to be the first in the world for the purposes of offshore oil production.

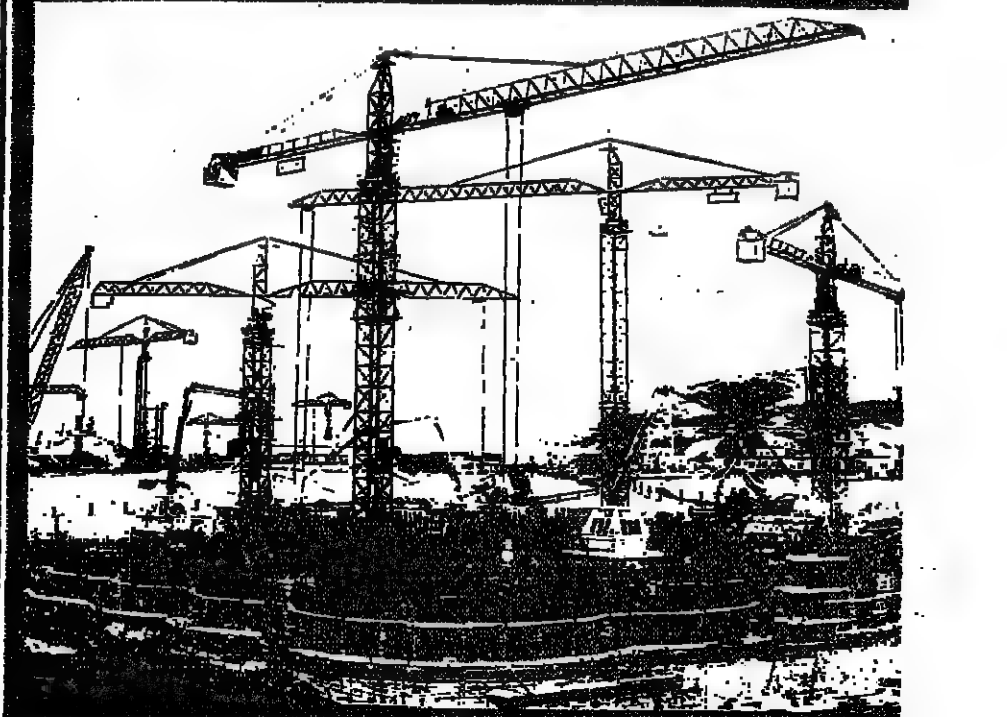
BP's tropospheric link from the company's terminal at Brimmond Hill near Aberdeen to its platforms in the Forties field is a vital, integral part of its system for controlling and supervising the production and distribution of oil from this field.

Help with the pictorial preparation of this Special Report was given by the Bank of Scotland Oil Division and Wood Gundy.

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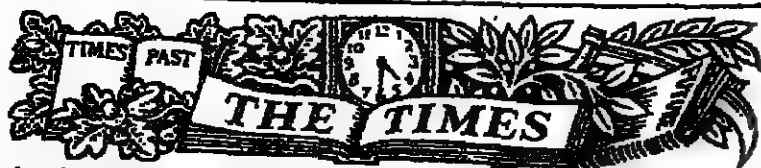
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THE SUMMIT DID MAKE PROGRESS

European summit produced Christmas stocking with gifts for everyone. The got the prestige of being some progress towards final changes, including voting, and a tentative treaty between a European Atlantic energy policy. The Germans got a state of common determination to inflation. The Italians, the British got a new regional fund. The British, after some curious tales, also got a commission on the budget.

Did the Community get any ways it ran true to a market place for barter over national interests, package as a whole does progress. This is not underrated at a time when a lot of pessimism about the Community institution and the ability of the countries to ride their troubles in a single boat of scrambling into lifeboats. The Commission specifically rejects monetarist measures. It is permanent consultation, speaks of convergent not uniform policies, and an important endorsement of West Germany's short-term programme to stimulate and private investment.

It recognizes that there are in the development of institutions. Power has been from the Commission to politicians but the politicians

have not been able to exercise their power effectively, partly because of divergent national policies but partly because the machinery cannot cope. Decisions have been piling up against the doors of the Council of Ministers, many of them trivial but needing action just the same. The enlargement of the Community and uncertainty over British membership have also slowed down the already creaking apparatus. The communiqué shows some recognition of this by giving greater latitude to the permanent representatives and reserving only the most important political problems for the Council. It also gives a boost to political development by promising consultations on foreign policy, and reaffirming the need for European elections—in spite of British reservations.

Against this background of Community problems Britain's demand for "fundamental renegotiation" now looks more like a nagging nuisance than a major problem. No one regards it as either fundamental or renegotiation. It has become largely a matter of making certain adjustments for which a good case could have been made out without the threat of withdrawal, and for the rest, trying to be as patient as possible with the British Labour Party. But now that Mr Wilson has gone as far as he can towards committing himself to recommending satisfactory terms to the British people he is getting more patience and understanding—

Europeans could hardly make concessions to a government which would not say whether it really wanted to stay in or not. Nevertheless, things could still go wrong. Tensions and differences in the Community could be aggravated by economic stress over the next few months, and patience with Britain could diminish. Even now it is only by struggling to take a long-term view and thinking about North Sea oil that many Europeans can bring themselves to make any effort at all to keep Britain in. A great many of the hopes attached to British entry have been dissipated by Britain's poor economic and political performance.

Worse still, the referendum itself could still go wrong. The mood of the British people is uncertain and could be still more uncertain by next summer. There is strong opposition to the Community in parts of the trade union movement, and even many pro-Europeans in the movement seem afraid to stand up and defend their views in public. More widely there is generalized opposition to governments and politicians of all parties, and this could cause either a low turnout or a big negative vote directed more against the government of the day than the Community but having disastrous results. The Paris summit should have strengthened the pro-Europeans but they still have a struggle ahead of them and they will have to fight it with determination and intelligence.

British Leyland and the City

From Mr Roger W. Marsh

Sir, It has been apparent for some years that British Leyland has been a sick company. The three-day week, intermittent strikes, and the effect of inflation on cash flow have obviously gravely affected the company. However, the main cause of British Leyland's problems has been inadequate management and the failure to get to grips with the merging of the constituent companies. I consider it a significant failure on the part of some of the institutions of the City of London owning shares in the company, or acting on behalf of those who do, that the present management of British Leyland was allowed to continue for so long.

We now seem to be facing another failure and this time more serious. British Leyland needs cash of at least £50m and probably considerably more. The Government is proposing to step in and supply this cash and presumably will take a major share of the equity. The banks, the insurance companies and others have propped up many a sick company in the past. They have provided cash for equity issues for a major insurance group such as Commercial Union, and a major finance house such as UDT. They have supported large property groups, Town & Country, and the reconstruction of financial groups like Vassalor.

Surely support could be found for British Leyland, a major employer and a major export earner? I am not suggesting that support should be given in any manner other than a strictly commercial one. I suggest a fundamental capital reconstruction takes place with a large cash injection. At the same time the management should be changed. If these things were to happen, perhaps the City would have every reason to demonstrate to the world at large its efficiency and could easily rebut the frequent doubts raised about its future role.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER W. MARSH,
36 Paulston Square, SW3.

MPs barred from steelworks

From Mr Gwynfor Evans, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen

Sir, There has been considerable discussion in recent years of industrial democracy, of giving workers greater responsibility in industry and more participation in industrial control. With this background, when the East Moors Works Council asked my two Plaid Cymru parliamentary colleagues and myself to pay the steelworks at Cardiff a visit (December 5), I assumed that my suggestion that I should inform Dr Finnis, chairman of the BSC, of this was pure protocol. I was astonished to be told by Dr Finnis that he could not allow us to go inside the works. Therefore, when we went yesterday to Cardiff, although we were kindly conducted by members of the management over the neighbouring Guest, Keen and Nettlefold works, which take at least 80 per cent of the output of East Moors, we were not allowed inside the gates of the latter. Outside, members of the East Moors Works Council and supporters gave us a rousing reception.

Dr Finnis's refusal to allow three MPs to enter works, which in this case are under threat of closure, raises important questions. One concerns the rights of those who work in industry. The invitation to visit East Moors was extended to us by the Works Council Campaign Committee which represents the middle management as well as those who work on the floor. Is it not fanciful to call of workers' participation and responsibility when they may not even invite MPs to learn at first hand the facts of their industrial life?

Then there are the rights of elected public representatives such as MPs in relation to industries which are to be under public control. Where is the element of public control in the steel industry where that is nationalized? The GKN works were not nationalized, but we were taken through them section by section and afterwards had a long and

cordial discussion with the management. It is in the public sector that we encounter the greatest secrecy. Dr Finnis told me that we could not enter the East Moors works because this would introduce party politics into the situation! He strengthened his case by adding that we were not local constituency MPs, an argument which presumably would shut out the Prime Minister. Is it not strange that a Welsh MP may be allowed to visit a defence installation, hundreds of miles from his constituency, where stringent security conditions prevail, but may not enter a Welsh nationalized steelworks? And that these steelworks may be entered by visitors from countries overseas, including countries on the other side of the Iron Curtain, but not by Welsh MPs who are helping to fight for their life?

Ten thousand jobs depend directly on the interdependent East Moors and GKN works. Closure of either would be devastating for Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, and its district. For Wales this is a national issue.

For us Dr Finnis's action has raised in an acute way the issue of the relationship between nationalized industries and the democratic process. The questions which we are allowed to ask in Parliament about nationalized industries are extremely limited in scope. I was not even allowed to question a minister about Dr Finnis's television statements about the possibility of renationalizing steelworks to private control. The episode is yet another illustration of the movement of Britain towards a corporate state, which is a consequence of the hugeness and complexity of the British state.

The moral drawn by nationalists in Wales is predictable. There must be radical decentralization of power. Wales should quickly have her own steel corporation and a government and parliament to which it would be accountable.

Yours faithfully,
GWYNFOR EVANS,
House of Commons,
December 6.

Academics' respect for truth

From Professor J. A. G. Griffith

Sir, Sir Keith Joseph's reply (December 4) to my challenge employs a trick, dear to politicians, which is likely to obscure the truth. I asked him (November 23) for some part of the evidence he claimed existed for his assertion that a small minority of university teachers "regards truth as being at worst irrelevant and at best a political weapon to manipulate the simple-minded." He replied by saying that I was challenging him to produce evidence for his assertion "that some academics have lost their respect for the truth." He thus abandoned his specific charge, replaced it by one almost totally imprecise, and then produced examples as evidence of his second formulation.

I agree with Mr Conrad Russell (December 10) and others that Sir Keith's examples do not support this second formulation. But I take it that even Sir Keith does not claim they have anything to do with his original assertion.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIFFITH,
Professor of Public Law in the University of London,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 10.

From Mr Rupert Wilkinson
Sir, Sir Keith Joseph's letter (December 4) and the replies to it do not give a clear picture of the state of academic freedom at universities. My own observations of arts and social studies at Sussex, a centre of the controversy, may help.

Does not enjoy, and largely exercise, wide freedom in the variety of reading they give students. For reasons unexplained, those who would ban a Huntington, Eysenck or Moseley in the flesh have not tried to ban their writings. In general, however, our teaching probably tends to the conventional liberal-leftist bias of many university communities, and it is in this light that the freedom to invite outside speakers becomes especially important. It may benefit even the radical to meet perspectives from an unfamiliar world. The arguments made by a minority here for excluding "reactionary" speakers of eminence have consistently failed to show precisely what the exclusion would benefit, beyond preventing offence to some university members.

A student union resolution has upheld the principle of unrestricted freedom to invite speakers, provided the freedom to ask questions is also recognised; and last year a number of serious-minded students in Vietnam were heard without fuss. Despite all this, despite the demonstrated commitment of the university's administrators to doffs freedom to invite, many faculty seem to be inhibited both by their own biases and by fear of "trouble" from inviting really controversial, eg. right wing, speakers. Timidity as much as prejudice is our problem.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT WILKINSON,
Reader in American Studies,
The University of Sussex,
Arts Building,
Falmer, Brighton,
December 10.

Remarriage of divorcees

From Miss Heather Jenner

Sir, I do hope that the tolerant view of the Bishop of Southwark quoted in *The Times* on Monday by Clifford Longley, your Religious Affairs Correspondent, will spread to the rest of the clergy.

The Bishop is quoted as saying that he would "Support any parish priest who feels in conscience that he cannot follow the Act of Convocation of 1566, ie, refuse to marry in a church anybody who has a former partner still living."

A number of serious-minded and sincere people, particularly young ones, live together without getting married because one or both of them feel that they might find it impossible to keep their marriage vows. In such cases it is the vow "To forsake all others so long as they both shall live" which worries them most. In other words, if they make a mistake they are punished for the rest of their lives.

It has been suggested that these words might be qualified, left out, or made optional in the marriage service in the same way as it is now for a bride to promise whether she will obey or not.

Human frailty is much more recognised and allowed for than it used to be, and allowing for this particular frailty would stop a lot of unhappiness.

Yours sincerely,
HEATHER JENNER, Manager,
The Marriage Bureau,
124 New Bond Street, W1,
December 10.

Buses in convoy

From Mr Leon Kreitzman

Sir, This morning I saw three buses, all with driver under instruction signs, proceeding in a convoy. Is this well-known technique now an actual part of London Transport training?

Yours faithfully,
LEON KREITZMAN,
10 Albert Mansions,
Albert Bridge Road, SW11,
December 5.

MCC touring teams

From Lt Col D. M. Prichard

Sir, The injuries and ailments of the English team in Australia are in strange contrast to the ruggedness of Lord Harris's team of 1878-79. Lord Harris remarked "I made a great mistake in bringing out as many as 12 players to Australia. They were all so keen to play that it would have saved me a lot of bother had I brought 11."

Yours faithfully,
D. M. C. PRICHARD,
Gibson Manor,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire.

FREEDOM OF THE ADVERTISER

has been a serious protest against an advertisement we attacked yesterday. The advertiser, Dr. Thirwall, particularly by Mrs. on the grounds that policy was unjust to the man people and that should "come first". The have not all come from or from Zionist organizations of those who have need have no Jewish ones, but believe that an advertisement is inadmissible.

policy of freedom of expression in advertising is not an easy one for a paper to follow. It is of freedom under law; we accept advertisements are illegal, either by way of tempt or defamation, or other reason. Nor do the elements appear without consideration of any of fact that they come through we most definitely put ourselves in the post-vouching for the advertiser we publish.

reason that we publish advertisements without restriction is that we that the freedom of the

advertiser is one of the essential freedoms of the press. The opposition of *The Times* to control of access to the press by a journalist's closed shop is grounded on the belief that freedom of expression must be allowed to all comers. There must be freedom for all those with important things to say, in the case of editorial matter, and for those who can afford to buy the space, in the case of advertising matter.

Such freedom will often give offence to other people; not only that, it will often give legitimate offence. A Zionist will be rightly angry to see his right to raise funds attacked, particularly as the argument that he should put Britain first, coming as it does from those whose prime concern is not with Britain but with the Middle East, will seem to him to be quite unfair. Yet the fact that an advertisement gives offence is not in itself a reason for refusing to publish it.

On November 25 we published a two-page advertisement which consisted of an appeal to the Soviet Government for the release of Soviet Jews. This was unquestionably an advertisement which gave offence to the Soviet Government and to those

communists in Britain who sympathize with or have faith in the Soviet Government. It attacked both Russian justice and the Russian treatment of Jews in severe terms. Some of our readers disapproved of that advertisement on the grounds that it was likely to create prejudice against the Soviet Union.

As it happens *The Times* entirely shares the concern for the liberation of Russian Jews, and for freedom for other oppressed communities in the Soviet Union. On the issue of fund raising we believe that Zionists—and for that matter all other law-abiding people—should be free to raise funds in the United Kingdom. That is not, however, the point. The freedom of the Soviet Jewish Prisoners Committee to publish advertisements attacking the policies of the Soviet Union in *The Times* is identical to the freedom of the Committee for Justice in the Middle East to publish advertisements attacking Zionist policies and fund raising. We would be doing no service to the cause of freedom if we only published those advertisements with which we happened to agree.

THE BILL COMES FIRST, THE SCHEME LATER

high Jenkins, the minister responsible for the arts, indicated how he intends proceed with legislation to sh a public lending right benefit of authors. In the ar he will introduce a Bill ure the right. Supply legislation will follow to declare precisely what ht consists of.

is an extraordinary way of ding. If Mr Jenkins is not in the new year with the of a workable scheme he business to initiate any tion in the matter. The argument about public g right for the past few has concerned practical-ly this matter more than in legislative approval of the ple must be contingent on ment's being satisfied that is a workable way of ting that principle into

transactions. Painters who sell a work to a public collection are not to be paid so much look, nor is it thought that the manufacturers of motor cars or sanding machines should receive more than the purchase price from firms which hire out those goods to the public.

Be that as it may, the authors' claim is conceded because it is held to be just. It is conceded not because it is held to be in the public interest to increase the earnings of authors so that more and better books may be available—on the contrary, too many new books rather than too few are published, and one would like to see the evidence that better books remain unwritten because of the present level of earnings. Nor is the claim conceded because authors, like old age pensioners or the heads of large families on low incomes, form a class adjudged deserving of public support. The claim, to repeat, is conceded because its principle is held to be just.

It follows that an acceptable scheme must faithfully embody the principle which justice is claiming as its own. The principle, badly, is that authors are cheated of their due when a library lends their books (or makes them available for consultation) without further payment accruing to them. The only faithful way of observing that prin-

ciple is by directly relating what individual authors get out of the scheme to reasonably accurate measurements of the borrowings of their books. The further a scheme departs from that relationship the less is the justification for it. To relate authors' payments to library purchases is one such departure, and Mr Jenkins's rule that popular authors shall be remunerated at a lower rate than unpopular authors is another. That may be good socialism, but it contradicts the principle which it is the whole purpose of this legislation to vindicate.

Unfortunately such studies as have been made show that the administrative complexity and cost of directly relating the public lending right to public lending are formidable. That however only underlines the necessity for Parliament to satisfy itself that there is a workable way of translating the principle into practice before it passes legislation. A workable way is one which neither entails administrative costs disproportionate to the sums available for distribution or to the benefits received, nor, in order to avoid that position, seriously compromises the principle at stake. Until Mr Jenkins is ready with a scheme that meets those requirements he is not ready to introduce legislation.

Forecasts on inflation

From the Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research

Sir, Dr Thirwall thinks that the publication by the National Institute of a forecast, on the assumption of unchanged policies, prices may rise by 20-25 per cent through next year, will itself help to accelerate inflation. The National Institute has been publishing explicit price forecasts, at quarterly intervals, for at least 10 years. Might not the suppression of this forecast, at this juncture, lead to the conclusion that we found the prospect too awful to contemplate and thus lay us open to the charge of causing even greater alarm?

Yours faithfully,
G. D. N. WORSWICK, Director,
NIESR,
2 Dean Trench Street,
Smith Square, SW1.

From Professor Henry N. Goldstein

Sir, Dr A. P. Thirwall (December 10) suggests that the recent forecast of a high rate of inflation by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research is itself a potent force making for future inflation. If he is right, the solution to England's biggest economic problem is at hand. The National Institute need only forecast stable or falling prices. The money for which it forecasts is self-fulfilling. Since the forecast is self-fulfilling, moreover, no intellectual dishonesty is involved.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY N. GOLDSTEIN,
Visiting Professorial Fellow,
The University of Sussex,
Centre for Contemporary European Studies,
Brighton.

Britain and Middle East

From Mr John Benjamin Simon

Sir, I have been a reader of your newspaper for a number of years and I am absolutely shocked by your editorial in the edition of December 11 by the "Committee for Justice in the Middle East". I have rarely read anything so insinuating, hypocritical and racially defamatory. Although I respect your right to express your views on the Middle East in your leader columns, I do not believe you have the same right to allow such deceitful and false propaganda to appear on your pages. The truth is: British money would be used to pay the Arab nations such a prohibitive and extortionate price for its cartel petroleum. Let that not be forgotten.

I am disgusted.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BENJAMIN SIMON,
3 Imperial Towers,
Netherhall Gardens, NW3.

School reading habits

From Mr S. Dennerley

Sir, What a funny world we educationists inhabit! A body of experts has just discovered—no doubt at somebody's expense—that the reading habits of the average schoolboy are steadily declining. Some months of research have gone into this; which might seem strange when any classroom teacher could have given the same answer within seconds.

Next year, almost certainly, a similar body of experts will discover that the writing habits have also mysteriously declined, and start off another frantic scramble as to the whys and wherefores. However, there is possibly a consolatory ray of light on a dark horizon. Television, for economic reasons, has been curtailed so viewing hours will be less.

The average schoolboy may be seen with a book in his hand again! We, too, can play our part by glorifying the "banned" books and encouraging those who want to read and write much more.

Yours sincerely,
S. DENNERLEY, Headmaster,
Birkenhead Institute High School,
Tollmeade Road,
Birkenhead,
Cheshire.

Planning delays

From the President of the Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, Your leading article (December 6) was right in saying that the architect who complained of a year's delay in getting a refusal is far from being an unfortunate exception. Surveyors have been complaining of these delays for over a quarter of a century. The late Mr J. P. Rhys was complaining of them when he and I jointly gave an address to this Institution in 1950. I strove as a planning official for 37 years to cure these delays, which I hate, but they still occur.

Your leading article went on to place the main blame by implication on the two-tier local government structure, but delays in deciding planning applications were endemic long before the two-tier system (whose disadvantages are blatant) was strengthened and applied throughout the country.

Like you I have been pinning hopes upon Mr George Dobry's forthcoming report. His interim report last January was not an unqualified reassurance, but he did at all events say that control is "being applied to a wider range of matters and in more detail than is strictly necessary." This, I believe, is the key. Planning authorities have got to simplify the issues, decide what really matters, be firm and prompt on those items, and not expect (or be expected) to control everybody

and everything beyond that. I fear that councillors and over-zealous officials are often equally at fault, but so are the third party objectors, the residents' associations and the various partisans who all want to have their say.

In fairness to the planning authorities, their job is unenviable. Before deciding they have to consult far and wide; they try to satisfy an awful lot of diverse opinions. In deciding the simpler applications, many of the authorities have very good records. It is the contentious cases that give rise to delay; and the reason that authorities take a lot of time over them is only because they hesitate to give an outright refusal at the start. Perhaps that would be better; but by taking time they sometimes resolve conflicts and produce a more acceptable decision.

The fact remains that everyone concerned with land and its use, and the chartered surveyors who advise them, are fed up with delays in planning decisions. It is holding up the effective use of our land. Surely planning authorities have got to be clearer about their objectives and firmer and quicker in deciding applications, theirs or no theirs.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. COLLINS, President,
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square,
Westminster, SW1,
December 9.

Before university

Professor John A. Davis

propos the correspondence in columns on the desirability of taking a year off academic training before leaving school and going to university. I write to suggest in the case of medical students this should in most cases be as nursing auxiliaries or a training for the nursing roll. I would have a number of pages over and above those I set out which are worth coming by the Deans of Medicine. Competition for places in medical school is now severe and is of a level in so-called scientific subjects forms the main basis of selection—thus cutting out many students with a real vocation for

medicine and overstressing the value of the particular academic qualities involved in making a success of sixth form "science".

The need to get through a year's practical nursing, exposed to the uncertainties of the sick, and giving body care and emotional support to patients as part of the disciplined nursing team, would test out other equally necessary qualities and would give the students a much better appreciation of the relevance of the pre-clinical studies which they find so irksome as a prelude to walking the wards as well as a feeling of having earned their place as students who must for a time learn from the sick without doing anything for them.

The extra year would be no financial burden; it would be earning; and would ensure that students were relatively mature men and women

on qualification which is often not the case at present. Those who "dropped out" would on the whole be well lost to the profession, while a number of nurses would no doubt "drop in" to their place. For the might be possible to substitute a year as a laboratory technician or in some other medical technology; or even portering or domestic work in hospital would teach them something; and we could still insist on adequate academic achievements without interfering with recruitment.

Yours, etc,
JOHN DAVIS, Director,
The Department of Child Health,
University of Manchester,
Hathersage Road,
Manchester.
December 9.

SEA
Advanced technology for
Mining

ound falls again Saudi 'desire' for non-sterling deals confirmed

By Peter Hill
The pound fell sharply on the international currency market yesterday as it was confirmed that Saudi Arabia did not want any further oil receipts in the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco)—the world's largest oil consortium—to be in pounds.

It was being stressed in Whitehall and the City that the tendency for sterling to be phased out as a vehicle currency for making oil royalty payments did not mean that the Arabs would necessarily reduce the level at which they had been investing in Britain.

However, it will result in a once-and-for-all fall in the level of the sterling working balances held by the oil companies. At the same time, the knowledge of the regular oil company purchases of pounds for oil royalty purposes has been an important psychological prop to the currency.

The Arab oil receipts would no longer come—if other countries followed the Saudi example—to London on a semi-automatic basis. Moreover, if inflation in Britain did reach the more pessimistic levels forecast, it would be running substantially above what many of their London investments could hope to yield.

In Vienna yesterday, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Azqi, the Saudi oil minister, who was there for the OPEC meeting, said no basic changes of policy over oil payments were contemplated. The intake of sterling and dollars depended on his country's requirements at any given time, he said.

In the first six months of this year, the oil exporting countries received over \$8,000m of their revenues in sterling.

Of this sum about a quarter was retained in sterling balances.

Presumably Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, who yesterday completed three days of talks with government officials in Saudi Arabia, tried to get some assurance from them that they would continue to invest their revenues in London. An agreed statement was issued in Riyadh which referred to the talks taking place in a "very friendly and constructive atmosphere".

One decision taken is for a joint Saudi-British committee to meet in Riyadh next February to discuss details of new economic and industrial co-operation between the two countries.

Informal meeting: Mr. Healey has invited finance ministers and the central bank governors of the EEC countries, together with the EEC Commission, to a two-day informal meeting in London on January 7 and 8.

overnment rejects R-R ttlement criticism

By Peter Hill
The third report from the Committee of Public Accounts is debated by the Commons early in the new year, Mr. Harold Cunn, the chairman, has said. His colleagues can be expected to press a number of amendments to which the Government has replied in the Treasury minutes published yesterday.

Mr. Cunn is seeking the publication of the report after the recess because publication of the report, of which a typescript was available in September, has been delayed by now by pricing difficulties.

It runs to some 230 paragraphs covering 27 different areas, the committee is continuing publishing it in instalments in future, if any particular subject matter seems sufficiently important and in need of publicity.

The Government has rejected the criticism in the report that the amount paid to the ever for the assets of Rolls-Royce was excessively generous. The committee felt that the sum of the settlement used on the pricing formula

'Take over Panel adjourns Miss Penny Brahms' case

By Peter Hill
After enjoining former model Miss Penny Brahms, who controls Land and General Developments, the property company, to enfranchise the up's voteless shareholders, the Take-Over Panel adjourned yesterday again adjourned the case.

Miss Brahms, who is now married to Mr. "Dandy" Kim, visited the Panel yesterday for the second time in two weeks.

Afterwards the Panel issued a statement affirming that the remaining directors of Land and General were anxious to comply with the Panel orders, and to find independent directors to replace the giving of votes to a big majority of L & G shareholders.

The Panel said it "recognizes that the directors of Land and General face difficulties in finding volunteers to act on the board. One of these difficulties is the fact that the Department of Trade has appointed inspec-

tors to inquire into Land & General".

The Panel then goes on to ask "relevant organisations" to help the L & G board find suitable independent directors to assist L & G through this transitional period".

The case has been adjourned to December 20 when Miss Brahms, who controls L & G through her private concern Napier Securities, will report to the Panel's director general on negotiations being conducted by Napier.

Miss Brahms has already sold 271,000 of L & G voting shares to Mr. Peter Ronald Knapp-Fisher and his colleague Mr. John Charles Dalby.

If Miss Brahms completes her deal with him, as seems likely, it will presumably be up to him to award votes to the "A" shareholders and/or make a bid. He paid a share around 17p.

The £1m bid put forward by Somers Shipping, a Bermudian group and Channel International Trust of Jersey, which was contingent on enfranchisement, has now lapsed, leaving Mr. Knapp-Fisher alone in the field.

Gilts fall and shares plunge to 20-year low

By Our Financial Staff
London stock markets suffered further losses yesterday after confirmation that the switching by some American oil companies of payments from sterling to United States dollars had brought a further setback for sterling.

There was increasing nervousness in the City ahead of today's announcement of the United Kingdom trade figures for last month, with some sources now predicting a deficit in the £550m-£600m range.

Against this background, gilts lost up to 1 of a point, and equities plunged to a 20-year low. The FT index fell 4.4 per cent on the day, to close at 150.4, its lowest point since June 16, 1954—not allowing for devaluations, or for the fall in the value of money.

Consolidated stocks were extremely weak. Prices fell back in the last hour of trading on talk of heavy intervention in New York to defend sterling. But most stocks, particularly at the longer end, were already at all-time lows before this further decline set in.

Yields on indexed stocks are at record levels. The yield on Treasury 24 per cent was 17.85 per cent at the close and only a modest fall today would push it through the 18 per cent level. The yield on War Loan 31 per cent was 17.59 per cent and on Consols 24 per cent 17.49 per cent.

The market feared that the Bank of England might be obliged to raise the Minimum Lending Rate shortly to provide support for sterling.

In the equity market, selling pressure remained relatively light, but nervousness increased as the continued slide in sterling was followed by increased selling of shares in London. The time has come from continental sources.

With the OPEC countries expected to meet today in Vienna, oil shares were unsupported, in spite of Wall Street's overnight rise. The miners' wage claim, together with the signs of strain in the motor industry, again undermined heavy engineering shares.

There was a minor rally in late dealings which enabled ICI to close a net 2p off at 116 after touching 115p earlier. But Hawker Siddeley were finally 12p out at 121p, with selling of the shares gathering pace in late dealings.

GEC profits fail to cheer market

By Our Financial Staff
A 5p fall to 46p in General Electric Company's share price yesterday reflected stock market disappointment with the electrical group's interim figures. Profits turned out to be £71m after six months against some expectation of £75m.

Nevertheless, GEC's profit was nearly 5 per cent higher on sales 154 per cent up at £505m. Once again, the company's substantial cash resources helped; interest and investment income moved up from £3.8m to £9.4m. This was due to the factors which helped lift the profits caused by a sharp downturn in consumer product earnings.

Financial Editor, page 19

Price body loses cement appeal

An appeal by the Price Commission against a decision of the High Court on cement pricing was rejected by the Appeal Court yesterday.

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers started proceedings when the commission reduced its application for a 16.75 per cent increase to 13.9 per cent. The company said yesterday it had probably lost more than £1m to date by its failure to get the full increase.

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Law Report, page 16

How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Aust Intv	2p to 33p	William, J.	5p to 22p
Anal Estv	2p to 17p	Rift Am Tob	5p to 15p
Doncaster, D.	2p to 20p	Campani	3p to 9p
Foster, J.	2p to 12p	Distillers	31p to 71p
Stetson Int	2p to 20p	De Beers Dts	18p to 16p
Kwik Save Disc	6p to 74p	GKN	6p to 46p
Osborn, S.	2p to 24p	GKN	3p to 94p

Equities fell to 20-year low points. Gilt-edged securities gave fresh ground. Sterling fell 70 points to \$2,317.0. The "effective devaluation" rate was 21.4 per cent. Gold dropped \$3.75 to \$174.00. SDRs was 1.212150 while SDR-E was 0.521516. Commodities: Copper prices fell

Inflation and state policies caused a setback to North Sea boom, US oil chief says

By Peter Hill
Criticism of the Government's offshore oil policies was made in London yesterday by Mr. Jerry Maier, executive vice-president of the American-owned Conoco North Sea.

He said that while there may not be any noticeable evidence of a decline in offshore activity, there were forces and indicators at work which reflected the actual mood of the industry.

Earlier this year, he continued, there had been all the ingredients for a mammoth oil boom despite the high costs and technological problems. But the boom had not gained the momentum expected.

Speaking against the background of an announcement by BP that it had abandoned the second of two dry wells west of the Shetlands—at a cost of

£5.6m—Mr. Maier said that rising inflation, late delivery, the cost of borrowing money and uncertain government proposals on tax and participation had changed the oil industry's views.

There should be no misconception as to the degree of concern which the oil industry felt about the future, he said. The legislation on participation and the petroleum revenue tax could have a more profound effect on the oil industry than anything else that had arisen since exploration began.

Mr. Maier, who was addressing a conference organized by The Financial Times, said that more time should be taken to ensure that the decisions taken this winter would prove to be of lasting benefit to Britain.

"If the Government sees fit to re-write contracts entered into several years ago to fit today's economic climate, then industry similarly deserves assurances of favourable readjustments of terms if it is jeopardized by future changes that are disadvantageous to it," he added.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, the Opposition spokesman on energy, also gave a warning that if the Government insisted on buying 51 per cent of American companies' North Sea interests below market value, there could be retaliation against British interests in America.

It was left to Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, to defend the Government's policy. He told the conference that participation was the dis-

infective theme of the Government's policy.

"That should hardly cause surprise because it is now a feature of oil policy by nearly all producer nations on a worldwide basis," he said.

Despite differences of political and social outlook, it has become almost standard practice.

Rights of control: The right of the United Kingdom, through Parliament, to exercise full control over exploration, depletion, disposal and taxation of its own oil and gas resources would be one of the main considerations when the European Community energy ministers met in Brussels next week, said Lord Balogh, Minister of State at the Department of Energy, speaking in The Hague yesterday.

OPEC aims, page 19

Shaikh takes seat on the Lonrho board

By Margaret Drummond
Lonrho, the controversial Pan-African trading conglomerate headed by Mr. Roland "Tiny" Rowland, will become the first United Kingdom public company with a shaikh on the board, following formal ratification of a £5.1m deal with Kuwaiti business interests at an extraordinary general meeting in London yesterday.

More than two hundred shareholders gathered at the Grosvenor Hotel to catch a glimpse of Shaikh Nasser Sabah al Ahmed, 25, the son-in-law of the ruler of Kuwait, who with the purchase of eight million Lonrho shares becomes the group's second largest shareholder and its main source of funds and contacts for expansion in the Middle East and Africa.

Lord Duncan Sandys, chairman of Lonrho (right) and Mr. "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive (left), accompany Shaikh Nasser Sabah al Ahmed to the group's extraordinary general meeting in London yesterday.

short of cash, the injection of a further £5m would not do any harm.

Despite these rather vague pronouncements, shareholders showed their enthusiasm for what may go down in history as the first petrodollar rights issue by voting heavily in favour.

Lord Duncan Sandys's sentiments were echoed by Shaikh Nasser himself in a short address to his fellow-shareholders. During the time he had been a Lonrho shareholder, he said, he had been very impressed by the group's management both in head office and in the field.

He therefore felt that this management could serve the dual purpose of employing additional funds productively to ensure a good rate of return and also assist in the further commercial developments of many African countries.

After the meeting Shaikh Nasser, whose family controls the large Kuwait-based conglomerate Gulf International, said that he held modest stakes in a number of United Kingdom companies, confessed to a shareholding in British Leyland and stated his intention of joining the Lonrho board.

Dr. Khalil Osman, Gulf International's Sudanese managing director, who indicated the link up between Lonrho and the Kuwaiti interests, made a fierce attack on current attempts to recycle the so-called petrodollars.

He declared that the Arab oil surplus meant that the Western nations had now to treat the underdeveloped nations as part of the world economy and find ways of funneling petrodollars into developing the infrastructures of emerging states.

Leyland sets deadline for Spanish plant sale

British Leyland has delivered an ultimatum to the Spanish Government, telling it that approval for the sale of its Spanish plant must be given or the responsibility for the continued employment of its 4,500 workers will be passed on to the Spanish Government.

In a letter to Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Spanish premier, Mr. John Barber, British Leyland's managing director, has made it clear that the company wants a decision on the plant's future before Christmas.

Mr. Barber spent last weekend in Spain discussing the situation with Señor Alfredo Santos Blanco, the Minister for Industry. No official statement was issued after the meeting.

British Leyland wants to sell its 98 per cent holding in the Auti plant near Pamplona to General Motors for £27.5m. The workforce at the plant have given their backing to Leyland's proposal, but the Spanish Government has delayed giving permission for the deal to go through.

The Spanish Government is believed to prefer the plant going to a consortium of local manufacturers made up of Seat, Fasa-Renault and Citroën, but the price the consortium is prepared to pay is nearer £20m.

In his letter, Mr. Barber has told the Spanish premier that Leyland is not prepared to go on financing Auti while negotiations take place. He has said that Leyland is prepared to hand over to him its responsibilities concerning the 4,500 workers at the plant.

In addition Mr. Barber has made it clear that British Leyland considers the Spanish Government to blame for the current situation because of its delay in deciding whether General Motors can buy the plant.

British Leyland's losses at Auti last year are estimated at £44m and it is anxious to sell the plant to ease its serious cash situation.

Commonwealth producers seek double sugar price

By Hugh Clayton
Commonwealth countries will tell the British Government today that they want almost double the present price for their sugar.

They would not say last night exactly what price they wanted for the 1.4 million tons for which the EEC has guaranteed access.

But Mr. Percival Patterson, Jamaican minister of foreign trade and spokesman for 15 cane producing countries said in London last night: "It is a question of 1.4 million tons at a good price or of none at a bad price."

He said that Jamaica had just concluded a long term sugar deal with Iran. This would take account of world price changes and would be "subject to the general principles of indexation".

Here again he would not reveal the exact price, but he agreed that it was close to the present free market price of more than £450 a ton.

"I think this provides a very useful precedent," he said. Mr. Patterson and other ministers will meet Mr. Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, today.

Littlewoods places big computer order

A contract described as one of the largest computer orders ever made in the United Kingdom has been placed by the Littlewoods Organisation to develop its mail order and chain-store computer systems. The order has been won by Honeywell Information Systems.

The computers have been ordered by Littlewoods to develop the on-line mail order entry and accounting systems

New EEF chief appointed

Mr. Anthony Frodsham, group specialist adviser to United Dominions Trust and a director of UDT Industries, has been appointed director-general of the Engineering Employers' Federation in succession to Mr. Martin Jukes. Mr. Frodsham will join the federation on January 1, formally assuming his new duties on February 19 when Mr. Jukes retires.

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Steel billets shortage brings request for import duty exemption

By Peter Hill

A request for import duty to be exempted on high carbon steel billets for the whole of next year is being considered by the Government.

The application, made at a time of softening demand for steel in many sectors, reflects the acute shortage of billets experienced by re-rollers largely because of the British Steel Corporation's inability to meet demand after unofficial disputes at main plants and a shortage of raw materials earlier this year.

It is understood the application was made by the British Independent Steel Producers Association and, if approved, would be an extension of an already existing exemption. The BSC is not against an extension of import duty exemption until the end of March next year, but would want the situation reviewed then.

The current shortage is believed to have forced some re-rollers to operate only four days a week and one or two companies have placed orders with European suppliers where prices, although still higher than British prices, have fallen markedly in recent weeks.

According to the authoritative

Bonn talks opened on reflating economy

By David Blake

A two day session of talks on the shape of the country's expected reflation package was opened by the West German cabinet yesterday. Details of the measures to boost domestic demand and to combat rising unemployment are expected to be announced tomorrow.

Any uncertainty about whether the Germans would reflate was dispelled in Paris earlier this week by Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor. He stressed the need for those countries which are in a strong position to reflate to prevent the world sliding into deep recession and possibly even a big slump this winter.

With over a million workers expected to be out of a job in the coming months there are strong domestic pressures on Bonn to reflate.

These pressures have been reinforced in the talks which Chancellor Schmidt has been holding with leaders of other countries in the Community and with the United States.

Apart from any altruistic interest in the well-being of other countries, the Germans are concerned that any worsening of the world situation could lead to a rash of protectionism in other industrialized countries.

The most likely measures, according to Bonn reports, would involve injecting something like 1,500m Deutsche marks (about £263m) from contingency reserves, and the payment of 5 per cent or 7 1/2 per cent bonuses for investment in capital goods.

These measures, by concentrating on capital investment, would be in line with the greater concentration on investment which is seen as necessary as a result of the switch of wealth away from the west towards the Arab oil producers.

Nationwide's survey finds 70 pc of home buyers are under 30

By Margaret Stone

Seven out of ten of today's homebuyers are under 30 and almost half of them are first-time buyers, according to a survey, published yesterday by the Nationwide Building Society.

The survey carried out during the period July-September this year covered approximately 7 per cent of mortgages granted by all building societies during that period.

The homes bought by first-time buyers were at the lower end of the market: over three-quarters bought houses costing less than £11,000.

Despite the squeeze on mortgages, more than 60 per cent of these buyers obtained loans with a deposit of less than £1,000. This contrasts sharply with the position of second-time buyers where the average deposit was £6,001.

The ability of a young couple to buy a house is becoming more and more dependent upon the income of the wife. The survey confirms that there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of borrowers with working wives whose incomes are taken into account when granting a mortgage.

Repayment for normal mortgages, before tax relief, represented 24.4 per cent of family income for first-time buyers compared with 21.6 per cent for previous owner occupiers.

THE HOUSEBUYERS			
Average	First time buyers	Previous owner occupiers	All purchasers
Price	£ 9,499	£ 12,736	£ 11,216
Deposit	£ 2,223	£ 6,001	£ 4,227
Loan	£ 7,276	£ 6,735	£ 6,989
% mortgage advance	76.6	52.9	62.3

Barclays issuing two 'currency cocktails'

By Christopher Wilkins

Two new currency "cocktails" have been introduced by Barclays Bank International aimed at minimizing the exchange rate risk for companies engaged in international trade.

The currency units are to be known as the B-Unit and the Commercial Euro. They are primarily being directed at companies involved in long-term contracts where normal forward cover in the foreign exchange market is not available.

The B-Unit incorporates five currencies each with equal weighting, the pound sterling, the Deutsche mark, the United States dollar, the French franc and the Swiss franc.

The Commercial Euro, which is being aimed mainly at trade between European countries, is comprised of nine European currencies, weighted according

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Finance Bill's breach of Treasury undertaking on Capital Transfer Tax

From Mr William Goodhart

Sir, In the spring Budget debate the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that any gift made between March 26, 1974, and a date to be fixed in the second Finance Bill would not be chargeable to Capital Transfer Tax if it would have been exempt from estate duty if the donor had died on the day after the gift was made. This undertaking was repeated in the White Paper on the Capital Transfer Tax published in August.

In one important respect, the Finance Bill published today fails to give effect to the Chief Secretary's undertaking. Under the old estate duty rules, gifts (including settled gifts) of property outside the United Kingdom made by individuals domiciled outside the United Kingdom would have been exempt from estate duty if the donor had died on the following day. Any such gift made after March 26, would accordingly have been unequivocally within the Chief Secretary's undertaking.

However, clause 40 of the Finance Bill gives an extended definition of "domicile", which appears to operate retrospectively. This means that individuals who are within the extended definition of domicile

Propagand concerning referendum

From Professor C. J. Hugh

Sir, Mr Kinsman, in your News (November 26) asserts confidently that the referendum, used for the purpose of democratic decision making, is a gerundive meaning "thing to be referred".

The premise is wrong. word came into our language from the old Swiss Confederation and its modern successors, short for "ad referendum", denotes the taking back of a proposal from the confederate Diet to the sovereign or community, of each member.

By analogy it also refers to all taking back of proposals (made by a representative assembly) to the sovereign people. It is a gerund (i got it the right way round means "referring"). In Latin, "ad referendum" would change into the plural if matters were referred, but the word has become English. Similarly one does not take a referendum, one educates it, one proposes it, one gerunds. The Oxford dictionary back me up here.

Yours, etc.
C. J. HUGHES,
Saddington, Leicestershire

Italian mission aims to clinch Iran deal

From John Earle

Rome, Dec 11

Signor Raffaele Girotti, chairman of the Italian state-owned Hydrocarbons Corporation ENI, left today for Tehran to conclude a wide-ranging agreement for Iranian participation in part of ENI's refining and distribution operations, in exchange for long-term supplies of crude oil.

According to Italian sources, the outline of an agreement has been reached after several months negotiations, but some serious obstacles still remain such as the price of the Iranian crude oil, to be supplied over a period of probably 20 years.

On this hinges the size of the Iranian participation in the Industria Italiana Petroli, formerly Shell Italiana, which ENI bought from Shell a year ago, and possibly also in certain ENI activities outside Italy.

Plan to simplify local authority borrowing

Standardization and simplification of the system through which local authorities borrow money are urged in a report by Butler Till, a prominent money broker firm.

The report, which has been mainly written by Sir Harry Page, now a consultant, to Butler Till, calls for the consolidation of all non-negotiable borrowings by local authorities into one instrument.

This would result in the replacement of the mortgage, the bond and the temporary or deposit receipt by a loan acknowledgement.

The report argues that the different types of non-negotiable instrument are identical in terms of ranking and financial security, and should therefore be issued under a common heading.

Negotiable paper, it says, should be standardised into three categories. These are the bill, with a life of less than one year and normally issued in bearer form; the bond, with a life of one to eight years; and the stock, with a life of more than eight years.

The report, entitled "Money Services for Local Authorities", is being circulated to more than 500 local authorities and to some 300 lenders.

Social contract must be changed, CBI head says

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Ralph Batesman, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said in Cardiff yesterday that the most important task of 1975 must be to "get hold of inflation by the neck and strangle it".

A central feature of this must be to renegotiate the social contract, Mr Batesman told industrialists.

"Nobody would envy any minister the task of drawing up effective counter-inflation policies," he continued. "Certainly the CBI, like everybody else, finds it much easier to identify the problems than to solve them."

"But one thing is embarrassingly obvious: the Government must renegotiate its social contract."

"In my opinion, this Government's general strategy is dazed and injured by the progress first and foremost to the

Alarming features of eminent thought on social contract

From Mr A. L. King

Sir, There are certain of your contributors who can no longer surprise me by the remarkable doctrines which they are capable of producing, but Mr Peter Jay, for whom I have considerable respect, is not one of them.

This made it all the more alarming to observe two or three incidental features of his article "One small phrase in the social contract—one giant leap for inflation", which must surely leave any thinking reader uneasy in the extreme.

First, on the definition of the contract itself, the recent exchange of correspondence between Mr James Prior and Mr Len Murray has shown, to say the least, that there is a point to be made; yet we find Mr Jay writing: "Indeed, the social contract itself, as set out in the TUC's Supplementary Report A..."

And lower down, in relation to the paragraph which has apparently caused all the trouble: "It can hardly be what the TUC draftsman intended, nor what the Treasury understood..."

When writing these phrases, were the hairs on the back of Mr Jay's neck entirely relaxed in the light of his bland acceptance of the substitution of one pressure group for the constitutional machine of government?

Secondly, his genuine surprise—and by implication that of the TUC—at the interpretation of which is developing of the offending paragraph can surely not have been shared by managers experienced in trade union affairs, who will have known exactly what to expect.

Thirdly, how appallingly revealing, in a so-called contract of this character, is Mr Jay's reservations about the CBI—"...to be included as a contracting party, provided that it does not make conditions outside the specific field of pay restraint and directly related macro-economic questions".

We were told at a museum during the general election that the social contract was with all the people and covered every aspect of government—economic, social and even in some respects foreign policy.

The sort of criteria in this context which a discerning and experienced writer like Mr Jay would seem prepared to accept, fill one with more misgivings almost than inflation itself.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. KING,
Highlands,
50 Wagon Road,
Hadley Wood,
Barnet,
Hertfordshire.

Bank efficiency

From Dr R. J. Bridgewater

Sir, Recent correspondence referred to the functions of clearing banks and assistant small businesses.

Whilst it is true that more should be done for businesses, which alone put this country back on its feet, I would like to criticise the banking system for its inefficiency in assessing viable projects.

My own personal knowledge shows that I have financed some business which at worst go bankrupt at best show only a small return on capital, whilst others apparently better records starved of capital. (I won't mention exports since even Government pleas to the banks little affect here.)

At a time when capital short supply I feel that banks should adopt a responsible attitude to lending and give preference to parties with good returns, employment, exports and values.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. BRIDGEWATER,
Managing Director,
Maybridge Chemical Co. Ltd,
Trevillian,
Tintagel,
Cornwall,
December 9.

Paracetamol exemption call

An application has been received by the Department of Trade for the temporary exemption from import duty of the widely-used analgesic paracetamol. The department does not disclose the names of applicants for exemption orders, but if sanctioned the exemption would operate for a year.

There is a world shortage of paracetamol. This has been aggravated in the United Kingdom by the controversy over medicines containing phenacetin, another pain-killer.

Since September 1 these have been restricted to prescription sales only. This follows an accumulation of evidence over many years that when used regularly for long periods, phenacetin may damage the kidneys.

World prices of paracetamol are significantly higher than those in the United Kingdom.

£2.7m detergent plant investment

Investment of £2.7m in new production facilities for sodium tripolyphosphate was announced yesterday by Albright & Wilson, one of the world's largest producers of detergent phosphates.

The company said that new capacity would be installed at its Marchon division site at Whitehaven, Cumbria, to produce 85,000 tonnes annually, representing an increase of about 50 per cent on existing levels, with completion of the plant scheduled for the middle of 1976.

Mr John Willis, managing director of the company's Marchon division, said last night that the latest investment reflected the company's intention to maintain its strong world position in detergent phosphates.

Fed laws could involve big changes in US bank system

From Frank Vogt

Washington, Dec 11

Legislative proposals that will lead to drastic changes in the United States banking system are now being finalized by the Federal Reserve Board. But they have to be accepted by the Congress.

Proposals to regulate the branches, subsidiaries and affiliates of foreign banks here were announced by the Fed last week, but these should be seen as a part of the total reform package that the Fed is developing.

Such reforms will give the Fed much greater powers over American banks and reduce the powers held by the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

To some extent the reform planning has been given increased urgency by Fed governors due to the collapse of the United States national bank of San Diego and the Franklin National Bank of New York.

The first insight into what the Fed is planning was revealed in a speech by the institutional investors Institute by Mr John Sheehan, of the Fed's board of governors. He favours a centralized Federal Bank regulatory structure that will give the Fed's board in Washington firm control over all aspects of monetary policy and over regulation and supervision of the entire United States banking industry.

At the moment the Fed has the right only to examine fully

INTERIM STATEMENT

ESTIMATED RESULTS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1974			
The following are the estimated and unaudited results of the Phoenix group of companies for the nine months ended 30th September 1974 with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1973 and actual results for the full year 1973:			
	9 months to 30.9.74 £'000	9 months to 30.9.73 £'000	Year 1973 £'000
Net premiums written:			
Fire, accident, marine and aviation	130,325	119,929	161,889
Investment income	11,048	8,369	12,347
Underwriting profit:			
Fire, accident, marine and aviation	-2,805	2,593	2,448
Long-term	1,043	944	1,391
	8,286	11,896	16,186
Less expenses not charged to other accounts	517	820	516
Profit before tax	8,769	11,376	15,670
Less tax	3,104	3,348	5,747
	5,665	8,028	9,923
Less minority interests	1,205	1,114	1,330
Net profit	4,460	6,914	8,593
Earnings per share	10.90p	17.20p	21.36p

Note: Overseas currency transactions have been converted at rates of exchange appropriate to the periods in question. In converting US dollar transactions for the 9 months to 30th September 1974 a rate of \$2.33 has been used compared with a rate of \$2.41 for the 9 months to 30th September 1973 and \$2.32 for the year 1973.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Investment income has increased by 32% from £8.4m to £11m. After taking account of underwriting losses of £2.8m (1973 profit £2.6m) profits before tax and minorities are £8.8m compared with £11.4m for the corresponding period in 1973.

In the United Kingdom with the uncertainty as to future rates of inflation it has been considered prudent further to strengthen outstanding claims reserves to reflect the anticipated cost of eventual settlements. The home fire and accident underwriting loss is £0.7m.

In the United States the results in the early part of the year were affected by tornadoes. There is evidence of some deterioration in claims experience in the third quarter. The fire and accident loss at 30th September amounts to £1.25m.

Measures to improve the quality of the account in Canada have brought a reduction in premium income. Underwriting shows a modest improvement over the corresponding period in 1973.

In Australia additional transfers to outstanding claims reserves have contributed to the underwriting loss of £1.5m.

In other parts of the world trading results have been good. Premium growth has been affected by currency fluctuations.

LONG-TERM BUSINESS

New business figures are as follows:			
	9 months to 30.9.74 £m	9 months to 30.9.73 £m	Year 1973 £m
New sums assured	511	462	678
New annuities per annum	3.3	3.5	5.4
New annual premiums	5.7	5.8	8.8
New single premiums	1.8	10.4	11.4

11th December 1974

HARDY

FURNISHERS

INTERIM REPORT

The Unaudited Group Results for the half year are as follows:

	28 weeks to 10th Aug. 1974	28 weeks to 11th Aug. 1973	Year to 26th Jan. 1974
Turnover	£'000 12,503	£'000 14,765	£'000 28,484
Trading Surplus	874	1,932	3,954
Amortisation & Depreciation	174	170	326
Interest Payable	272	210	440
Trading Profit	228	1,552	3,188
(Decrease) Increase in Reserves for Deferred Profit and Unearned Charges	(786)	10	459
Net Profit before Taxation	1,014	1,542	2,729
Taxation at 50% (Comparatives at 48%)	507	745	1,409
Net Profit after Taxation	507	797	1,320
Dividends to Outside Preference Shareholders	7	7	14
Net Profit attributable to Holding Company	500	790	1,306
Dividends to Preference Shareholders	2	2	4
Earnings	498	788	1,302
Earnings per Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary	2.2p	3.4p	5.7p
Dividends on Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary Interim at 1.155p per share (1.155p)	266	266	266
Final at 1.664p per share	—	—	384
Stocks	2,793	2,887	3,047
Debtors on Hire Purchase Agreements and Amounts due from Customers	14,759	16,018	17,424
Reserves for Deferred Profit and Unearned Charges	4,354	4,650	5,140
Debtenture Stock and Mortgages	2,016	2,022	2,019
Bank Overdraft	1,567	2,673	4,002

In common with other retailers, turnover and profits were adversely affected by national conditions at the beginning of the year. However, measures were taken to meet this situation with the result that trading has now improved and performance in the second half of this year is expected to equal that in the same period last year. Subject to unforeseen circumstances, the total dividend should be no less than last year and adequately covered.

An interim dividend of 1.155p per share will be paid on the 24th January 1975 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 27th December 1974.

50% من الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Cash management at GEC

forces are rapidly becoming a more potent factor in obtaining price increases than legislation, a point that has been emphasised by many others since proposals for relaxing price restraints emerged in the autumn Budget.

The positive side of the Appeal Court's decision lies more in the psychological filip than the supporters of replacement of the ruling that this is a generally accepted accounting practice. It is possible, of course, that the Price Commission could take the final step to the Lords. But judicial support so far for replacement cost accounting can only increase the indirect pressure on the Government to move towards further index-linking in the tax system—relief against stock appreciation being a crude limit to that direction—and elsewhere.

Phoenix Assurance Increased provisions

After a string of miserable third quarter results from the leaders in the composite sector, the market would have been well prepared for the kind of figures that Phoenix produced yesterday. Not so, and to be fair it is not too difficult to see where market thinking went wrong. As expected, a United States underwriting loss of £1.25m after nine months represents further deterioration on the June 30 position—though not apparently a particularly large one—while Australia, which had a nine-month underwriting loss of £1.5m, has also continued to be a problem area.

In the Australian case, however, the loss is probably greater than might have been expected since the third quarter has produced further significant provisions to deal with the continuing high rate of inflation there. But the real surprise is the £700,000 underwriting loss in the home operations. Phoenix had pointed to increased provisions against inflation at the six-month stage but, with the group now taking a more pessimistic view on the likely inflationary trend in 1975, provisions have been increased still further.

As for the 41 per cent downturn in group premium income in the third quarter, Phoenix describes this as a quick that largely reflects increased selectivity in taking new business in Canada together with currency fluctuations. Certainly the post-September performance of sterling suggests that things should be the other way round come the year end. Meanwhile, Phoenix continues to command a small premium over the sector, with a prospective yield of 13.7 per cent at 87p (assuming maximum increase) slightly below the prospective average.

Nine months 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £35.6m
Net premium £130m (£120m)
Pre-tax profits £8.6m (£11.4m)

Magnet Joinery When demand slows

In July, at the time of the preliminary figures, Magnet Joinery shares were selling at around the 130p mark. Last night after the interim they closed 6p easier at 48p and it is difficult to see them holding even this price given the trading prospects lying ahead.

Sales growth in the six months to end August at 12 per cent was only a quarter that of the period 12 months earlier. Demand, despite the increase in deposits, has been dropping off rapidly and, worse, the D-I-Y

trade on which Magnet depends heavily appears to have been no exception. As a result the rate of expansion of new openings (to a total of around 112 by the end of the current financial year) will be substantially curtailed in 1975 and what there is will be confined almost entirely to filling odd holes in the trading map.

The drop in timber prices of around a quarter from their peak has left pre-tax profits bearing an unspecified amount of stock losses in the 18 per cent fall to £3.16m. Stocks are currently being reduced with consequent benefit to liquidity, but here it is the proposed stock appreciation measures, worth between £1.6m and £1.8m, which will have the greater influence.

Interim: 1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization £59.1m
Sales £14.4m (£12.8m)
Pre-tax profits £3.16m (£3.85m)
Dividend gross 1.26p (1.12p)

Lloyds & Scottish Justifying its status

It is not hard to see why Lloyds & Scottish should have been commanding such a stock market premium over Mercantile Credit and United Dominions Trust. Down by 31 per cent at the interim, it has finished the year only just over 14 per cent lower and its negligible exposure in the property world has meant none of the crippling provisions seen elsewhere.

On the funding side it has had the all-important benefit of the extra £60m of fixed rate medium-term finance taken on with some foresight in 1971-72. And although the policy has been to restrict new business, it has not been such a limiting factor as it has for the independents and Lloyds & Scottish has been picking up market share at their expense. Loans related to the finance houses' base rate, moreover, are up from around 30 to some 45 per cent of the total, reflecting the relative shift within the portfolio from personal to industrial finance.

So Lloyds & Scottish has emerged from an extremely difficult year relatively unscathed and with its gearing still at modest levels. Thanks to the acquisition of British Relay, Encouraging though that may be for the present year, however, the group is not yet out of the woods. British Relay's 20-week contribution as a subsidiary last year was negligible and little enough can be expected this year since depreciation policies are being adjusted on to a more conservative footing.

For the present at least the downsizing in short-term interest rates has gone into reverse and during the current year close to half the cheap medium term loans fall due for repayment and refunding. But though Lloyds & Scottish says it has had no difficulty generating money market deposits, it admits having to pay a margin of 3 or 4 per cent more over inter-bank rates to do so. Not that any of this detracts from the group's standing as the most soundly defensive of the finance houses, but it does suggest that the going is not yet getting appreciably easier. The yield of 17.3 per cent with the shares at 26p looks about right.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £26.1m
Pre-tax profits £10.6m (£12.3m)
Earnings per share 4.8p (4.78p)
Dividend gross 4.5p (4.09p)

Roger Vielvoye discusses the influences behind the proposal for a simplified system

OPEC aims in sorting out the muddle over crude oil pricing

Anyone mesmerized over the claims for a discount, inconvertible system of posted prices for oil can take heart: the end of the system is in sight. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meets in Vienna today with, at the top of its agenda, proposals for a simple single price system for crude oil.

So far, the indications from Arab sources are that the changeover, if agreed, will not be used as an excuse for further increases in prices. There may be a few cents a barrel extra, as recommended by OPEC's technical advisers, to compensate for world inflation, but the general levels will remain pegged.

To reach a single price system there must be some hard and lengthy bargaining by all sides within the organization, and the meeting could be one of the most complex and significant held for some time. Formulation of a single price system could be made even tougher by the uncertainties that still surround the position of Saudi Arabia's proposed 100 per cent takeover of the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO).

The proponents of single pricing claim that it will not affect the end cost of oil to the consumer and will only squeeze the profitability of the multinational oil companies by removing their highly privileged position in the main oil producing areas of the world.

Eroded

The present posted prices system has been eroded and complicated by growing state participation in the oil companies' concessions. In a country where the government has a 50 per cent stake in the concession, the original oil company owners are permitted to buy 40 per cent of output at the cost of production plus tax, using the posted price as a tax reference.

At the beginning of this year tax was set at 55 per cent, but it was raised to 65.75 per cent of posted prices in "arms length" company trading, which was the state's share of production at rates varying between 93 and 94.8 per cent of the posted price.

With the posted price for Arabian light crude at \$11.651 a barrel concession-holders were able to average out their total crude costs at \$9.277 a barrel based on a 55 per cent tax rate and \$9.801 based on 65.75 per cent tax.

The various state oil companies established in the OPEC nations were selling their oil on the open market at the equivalent of 93 per cent of posted prices \$10.835 a barrel. At this level they found it difficult to sell to independent oil companies or state buyers.

First step

Saudi Arabia took the first step towards solving their sales problems. Acting jointly with Abu Dhabi and Qatar and without officially consulting their OPEC partners, they raised the tax and royalty rates to the companies and lowered the posted prices.

The royalty rate went up from 16.57 per cent to 20 per cent and there was a large jump in the tax rates from 65.75 per cent to 85 per cent. The posted price was then down from \$11.651 to \$11.251.



Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabian oil minister: prospect of price curbs.



The Shah of Iran: support for the principle of single pricing.

The net effect was to reduce the purchase prices of state oil to 10.672 a barrel and raise the average cost of the companies' crude to \$10.358 a barrel.

As the Saudis projected, a number of the oil companies, including Shell, were forced to cut their margins rather than lose their third party customers to the state oil companies. In effect, the Saudis have introduced a single price system, since the oil companies' production affiliates are also reselling to their marketing companies in Europe and Japan at \$10.672 a barrel.

Naturally, none of the companies is happy with this situation, but they will be even more disenchanted with a formalized single price system. Under the current Saudi pricing regime, a large portion of their costs are taken by the government in tax and therefore can be used to offset liability for taxation in their own country.

Single pricing would abolish the tax element and once any accumulated tax credit has disappeared they will be liable for a full rate of taxation on their transportation, refining and marketing operations.

The Vienna meeting of OPEC had hoped to have news of Saudi Arabia's participation talks with Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and Standard Oil of California. But the participation talks being held in London adjourned on Tuesday without agreement.

Taking 100 per cent control of Aramco also involves working out terms on which the companies will acquire oil from their previous concessions. The Saudis have made it clear they want to continue a single price

system and have resisted company claims for a discount to reward them for the development of the Saudi oil industry. So far, the companies have been told they must be content with \$2,300m compensation and the right to buy Saudi oil at the going market price.

Prestige

The Saudi claim for 100 per cent participation will be followed elsewhere in the Gulf and other OPEC countries where the vestiges of the concessionary system still remain. It will also reinforce Saudi Arabia's prestige within OPEC and provide their oil minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani with the negotiating muscle he needs to bring a series of small but welcome cuts in prices during 1975.

Support for the principle of single pricing has come from the Shah of Iran who has made his own proposals for this type of system in OPEC. Recently, the Shah said posted prices were a relic of the days before OPEC set its prices unilaterally and were "fictitious and misleading".

As single pricing would improve the competitive position of the state oil companies, support can also be expected from Kuwait, which had to shut down part of its production because it could not dispose of the oil on world markets. Iraq, which needs every dollar it can acquire for its development programme, has been harder hit by its inability to compete in the market place.

Consumer

No matter how often the OPEC countries say their measures are not aimed at the consumer but oil company profits, prices in the market place seem always to reflect the OPEC movement in the cost of crude. It now remains to be seen whether at last OPEC has found a way of squeezing the companies without putting up prices to the consumer.

Price controls now abound in the main consumer countries and governments are taking a much closer interest in "arms length" company trading, which will undoubtedly make it difficult for the multinationals to charge their marketing operations more than the open market price for crude oil established by the national oil companies in the Gulf.

However, outside Vienna there are many who believe that these companies will find a way of passing on the cost of the new system to the consumer.

A truce in the war of all against all

While the Chancellor has been failing to accomplish whatever he went to Saudi Arabia to do—the simultaneous reports that Saudi Arabia no longer intends to accept payment for oil in sterling were, to say the least, unfortunate—his economic strategy has been crumbling fast at home.

That strategy hinges on the social contract; and, unless it is powerfully reinforced by the end of the year, the Government will shortly find itself a helpless spectator of soaring unemployment and anarchic pay pressures.

The crisis which this poses for our whole political economy is well summed up by Professor Henry Phelps Brown in his *Final Reflections* on an international conference on "Wages Determination" in Paris in July, 1973, the papers of which are now published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: "Our problem is speaking here of all, or most, industrial countries, at a time of the dissolution of the old economic order, how shall we construct a new one?"

"It is the problem of the escape from the miseries of the stagflation which is the *bellum omnium contra omnes*, the war of all against all, to a society which is orderly because it is regulated by accepted authority."

In Britain now this means finding some form of short-term pay restraint which is not only accepted by the national leadership of trade unions, but also observed by their members. This is still of the first importance even if you believe, as I do, that the only long-term cure for stagflation is fiscal and monetary restraint and that the only long-term effects of an incomes policy are economic distortion and inefficiency.

The Cabinet, at their recent Chequers prayer meeting on the economy, agreed that Mr Healey's lectures to his West German and American opposite numbers on the importance of inflation was the country's first priority problem; and they called upon Whitehall for "ideas" by implication ideas to be used when the current form of the social contract failed.

I suggest my own three-stage stabilization (political as much as economic) programme, which is intended to accommodate the policies as well as the economic realities.

Stage one: Real-terms standstill

No principal pay settlements; quarterly cost-of-living only adjustments—based on the retail price index excluding import prices and tax changes—where agreed between employer and employee; special cases to be referred to slow-moving independent umpire; same umpire to monitor and report on general run of settlements and to give opinions when asked by Government, TUC, CBI, individual employers or particular unions on interpretation and application of the rules; all to be non-statutory.

Stage two: Restoration of free collective bargaining

After 5 per cent of labour force, excluding approved special cases, have broken stage one normal bargaining permitted; independent umpire to publish monthly index of national increase in money earnings in excess of estimated normal growth in productivity, adjusted to exclude effects of changes in unemployment and overtime working.

A general percentage tax on all gross incomes (earned and unearned, employed and self-employed) to be adjusted monthly so as to remove the excess rise in earnings; the product of the tax to be returned to employers as a general payroll subsidy (regionally differentiated, if so desired) thereby neutralizing the effect of excess pay increases on prices, as a national average, while permitting all normal micro-economic adjustments and incentives to operate.

Special cases to be handled as in stage one, but out of it

Peter Jay
Economics Editor

fixed annual "budget" for special cases established by the National Economic Development Council; the independent machinery to operate as in stage one and as required by Government, TUC and CBI.

Stage three: Return to normal

Prices having been automatically stabilized by stage two (though pay settlements will not necessarily have been), simultaneously abolish the tax and the subsidy with no net national effect on real personal disposable incomes, though with some distributive effects in favour of high savers, thus reversing the opposite distributive effects of the stage two machinery.

The stage two machinery needs fuller discussion than is possible here. But it is not statutory pay restraint. It cannot be struck against by individual groups of workers; in contrast with the Liberal Party's proposals for taxing away excessive pay increases directly.

It merely substitutes the "taxing" effects of inflation an explicit general tax on incomes, thereby stabilizing prices with important general advantages for the stability of the currency. By the end of stage three the problem of pay-push inflation will not have been solved; but it will have been put back several years, perhaps decades, to start again from much lower inflationary expectations.

At the same time governments forswear inflationary fiscal and monetary policies and as a result unemployment is acknowledged to be the consequence of excessive pay settlements, democracy just may succeed in securing the economic conditions of its own survival, though the odds must still be heavily against it in most western European countries.

Business Diary: Frodsham to EEF • BSC's insider

Frodsham, Martin, successor as director of the Engineering Federation, is to resign of fire in his

of the little Neddy in the tools and group adviser to United Dominions. He is joining the Federation of New Year's Day, Jukes does not retire weeks later.

perhaps just as well, for today the Confederation of Shipbuilding, and "ing" Unions begins its next industry-wide

This will cover about 100 workers and is likely to be the biggest ever shipped the EEF's table.

ations are likely to be about the time it takes over, and even it will have the benefit of Jukes's experience

urde, there is yet more EEF has about 5,000 members, ranging from the British Leyland and even to back-street work-

and they include many important suppliers. One are worried by the prospect of engineering recession-off from cutbacks in

ing industry. Very job that goes down in the motor industry, id, four follow it from

ponent makers. It is night-before-the-battle to whether there was

sider competition for the old hands such as Alan of the Coventry EEF or

ie federation's two directors Peers and Ted Marsh. ie other hand, Jukes him-

than Frodsham. Before joining the EEF as director-general in 1966, he was a successful advocate, specializing in industrial practice, especially insurance and compensation.

Jukes's experience in the field of working conditions will continue to find expression in his new role. He was recently appointed deputy chairman of the Health and Safety Commission and is now negotiating other appointments, both public and private.

Frodsham's new job involves leaving UDT (which has engineering interests), whom he joined only a year ago from P-E Consulting Group where he had been chief executive.

Personnel choice

The new managing director of the British Steel Corporation's personnel, social and regional policy division is to be an insider, Gordon Sambrook.

Sambrook is director of the tinplate group, strip mills division. He succeeds a former Minister of Health, Kenneth Robinson, who is taking over from Sir Richard Way as chairman of the London Transport Executive. Sambrook, incidentally, plans to continue with Robinson's equal opportunity programme for women.

He is a geographer and once considered teaching. He takes over just as the Government concludes its review of the BSC's plant closure programme.

If approved, the first redundancies are likely to be at Ebbw Vale, right in what is at present Sambrook's own backyard.

With 20 years' plant experience behind him, Sambrook said yesterday that local and

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yesterday that local and

yesterday that local and



Alice Coleman: epic survey.

national government had much to do in finding jobs for displaced workers and pointed to some success back around Ebbw Vale.

Before nationalisation Sambrook worked with Bob Scholey, now BSC's chief executive.

Magnum opus

The winner of 1974's *The Times/Vue* Chequered Award for "A Woman in a Man's World" is Alice Coleman, Reader in Geography at King's College, London.

The award acknowledges her achievement as the director of the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain. Among her prizes is to be a free trip for two to Rheims, in the champagne country.

Last year's winner was Stella Brummell, managing director of concrete mixer makers Benford Limited.

The other finalists this year were, in alphabetical order, Eve Bonham, director of auctioneers W & J. C. Bonham; Daisy Hyams, a director of Tesco (Holdings); Thelma Stevenson, associate director of Extel Advertising and PR Services; Julie Strain, manager of Fort Lift division of Greenham (Plant Hire); and Connie Taylor, chairman of steel stockholders Hall Brothers (West Bromwich).

Miss Coleman produced next to nothing an epic, 10-year survey of land use in Great Britain. This is now being plundered by all and sundry for the information it contains.

The big users of the maps from the survey are government agencies, the same people who forbade access to the land around the Foulness military base site to her teams of volunteer researchers, suggesting that they "guess" the uses of the terrain.

A comparison between the findings of this and prewar studies has shown that land is being eaten up much faster than anybody thought and has therefore pointed to the need for quick action.

The last such survey was carried out before the war by a man, Professor Stamp, but Miss Coleman's was a much more sophisticated exercise. Until recently, even the Civil Service excluded women from some cartographical work in what were quaintly known as "reproduction class" jobs.

Lastly, British universities have a poor record of hiring

women and a worse one for promoting them to senior appointments, although the University of London is thought to be the best of the bunch.

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ELEVEN NEW STORES IN 1974

21% RISE IN KWIK SAVE PROFITS

EXPANSION OF TRADING AREA

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement
Results for the financial year ended 31st August 1974 show turnover of £40,547,000 compared with £27,899,000 for the previous year, an increase of 45.33%. Net profit before tax was £2,705,692 (1973: £2,238,398) an increase of 21%.

During the year the group opened eleven new stores, making a total of 55 stores at the year end with a total gross area of 860,000 sq ft (1973 634,000 sq ft). During the current year five stores have already opened and it is hoped to open at least ten further stores.

The group's second warehouse at Ashton-in-Makerfield was opened in October 1973. This has operated most successfully. It has enabled us to expand our trading area to include the Potteries and the Midlands.

The current economic situation has meant that the housewife has had to become far more price conscious and our policy of permanent discount prices has enabled us to increase our market share, and the Board are very confident that this penetration will continue in the current year.

Five Year Record (£000's)	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
Turnover	40,547	27,899	22,444	15,030	11,076
Profit before Taxation	2,706	2,238	1,604	1,023	643
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	3,259	2,550	1,698	1,282	817

KWIK SAVE DISCOUNT GROUP LIMITED

Copies of the report and accounts available from the Company Secretary, Warren Drive, Prestatyn, Clwyd.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Bright opening from D Doncaster and still going strong

Daniel Doncaster, the Sheffield-based metal forger in which Johnson & Firth Brown holds an 11.5 per cent stake, yesterday announced excellent results for the 28 weeks to mid-October. Pre-tax profits in fact were more than double those for the corresponding period (excluding the Rolls-Royce adjustment) at £1.13m as against £541,000. Turnover advanced by 40.3 per cent to £14.97m, and partly in consequence of increased working capital requirements related to this higher level of activity, interest charges soared from £50,000 to £215,000.

However, the stock appreciation provisions of the budget are worth some £767,000 in tax deferral, and following the further strengthening of financial controls, the chairman believes the group has sufficient facilities for normal trading. Meanwhile the interim dividend has been raised by the maximum allowed for the year, to 1.74p gross. The board's forecast for the full year is "good" and market sources indicate that this means pre-tax profits in excess of the 1973 record of £1.98m, as against last year's £1.61m.

Caravans Int expects another opening loss

A second half turn-round of just over 51m by Caravans International brought little response from the stock market yesterday and the shares closed a point easier at 7 1/2p. And because of what is described by the company as a disappointing result, coupled with the need to cut costs and an increase in short-term borrowings, the final dividend is omitted leaving the total at 1.04p compared with 7p.

In the period to August 31 the pre-tax was down from

£2.46m to £549,000 out of sales slightly lower at £36.6m (£37.1m). No forecast is made for the current term but it is likely there will be a trading loss over the first six months, as was the case last time. The company says that to reduce overhead costs the production of touring caravans is being concentrated in two of the three Newmarket factories and that of motor, residential and static holiday units within one of the two factories at Parkstone.

Seaford Gentex record

Following the dismal results of 1971-72 and last year's recovery to more normal profit levels, Seaford Gentex, one of the largest Irish textile groups, have turned in profits and sales both showing substantial gains to record figures for 1973-74. Well ahead of half-time, profits at the pre-tax level for the full term to September 30 show a 150 per cent gain from £416,000

to £1,099m from sales 55 per cent ahead from £11.8m to £18.3m. The second half, in spite of the incidence of spring and summer holidays, produced the biggest contribution. The final dividend, which last year was stepped up after being cut back to conserve cash in 1971-72, is being raised again to 3.12p from 2.5p making the year's total 5p against 3.75p.

Norwest Holst 28 pc downturn

Although half-time profits of Norwest Holst, the Lancashire-based civil engineering and building contractors, show a 28 per cent downturn, before interest and special items, Mr D. R. LeMare, chairman, says he does not expect at this time any significant change in earnings. Trading in property continues to be profitable but at a reduced rate.

Group pre-tax profits for the half-year to September 30 were returned at £455,000 against £1.14m on turnover at a peak halfway level at £29m against £26m. Interest charges leapt from £395,000 to £554,000, but tax is reduced from £398,000 to £277,000. After minority interest and extraordinary items the distributable emerges at £184,000 compared with £496,000, which lowered earnings per share to 1.94p from 5.6p and, fully diluted, to 2.07p against 4.5p. None the less the interim dividend is raised slightly from 1.25p to 1.3p.

and also as a director of British Australian Investment Trust. He will, however, remain on the board of Drayton Commercial Investment Co.

Interim loss at Coated Metals

The poor interim result expected at Coated Metals (Holdings) has materialized. There was no significant improvement in United Kingdom demand after the three-day week, and while export sales have been running at a high level, turnover dipped from £3m to £2.9m. However, shareholders will receive an interim 1.5p against 5.5p gross.

A taxable profit of £327,000 has turned into a loss of £32,000 which reflects a continued erosion of margins coupled with competition at artificially low prices in certain markets. Also the group has had difficulty obtaining steel on schedule which caused plant stoppages.

Giltspur acquisition

Giltspur Expo Industries has acquired the hire stock, contracts, name and other assets of Paul Killewald KG for about £403,000 cash. Additional working capital and capital expenditure of £323,000 will also be supplied making a total investment by Giltspur of some £725,000. Killewald is the largest company in Germany supplying furniture and carpets on rental to exhibitors at trade shows, etc. Its operations are complementary to Giltspur's existing facilities in Germany. Giltspur is the leading exhibition furnishing hire company in Europe.

Wace downturn

Wace Group, printing plate suppliers, suffered badly from the three-day week with losses incurred by its London-based companies and a general downturn in demand. As such, profits in the half to June 30 fell from £63,000 to £32,000 from sales of £723,000 (£752,000). The dividend is cut from 0.85p to 0.59p. Redundancy costs in London

will hit the second half processes now introduced contribute to 1975 profits.

Better term for Kitson's

Falling share prices seem to be behind a Pilkington Brothers' mended offer terms. Insulation. Shareholders now offered seven shares, plus 105p cash. 15 Kitson's shares in new cash element. Current value of the 37.5p a share to 31 compares with the share when it was first October, and Kitson's price of 48p before Pilkington's shares worth 95p (down 4p compared with 160p offer was first made

Court Cate debts of £81

Court Line Catering subsidiary of the collar and shipping group, of almost £8m, cred told at a meeting in Mr Norman Sadi. Receiver, said the price of £22,000, a £8m, and unsecured £181,500. He said the was created only in year and its validity to be decided. But found to be valid it be nothing for unsecured.

Christie's purchase

Christie's are expanding business by taking long-established, but Debenham & Coe, Kensington, London, over. The new firm known as Christie's Sington and will open the beginning of absorb the increasing business brought in Christie's salesrooms. James's. No financial disclosed.

LONDON & PROVINC

SHOP CENTRES (HOLDINGS) LTD.

Joint Managing Directors

Ronald Gerard and Bernard S. Barriok

Results for year ended 24th June, 1974

- * Net income increased to £204,000 before dev charges and taxation.
- * Dividend increased by maximum permitted 5%.
- * Gross assets £18.5 million.
- * Capital and reserves equivalent to 139p per share.
- * Medium and short term borrowings reduced October, 1974 from £4.2m to £2.7m, of which medium term. Unused bank facilities £2.4m.
- * 56,000 sq. ft. office development in Slough will be at end-1975.
- * Planning consents obtained for next phase of development programme.
- * In spite of the anti-property legislation enacted six December, 1973, the unprecedented high interest in the generally depressed economic conditions, the store the Group can now be appreciated in that we have let high quality portfolio, very low short term cost and only one major development under construction.

Report and accounts available from
The Secretary, 23 South Audley Street London, W1Y

'Rebel' back in action

Swinging into action once again, Mr Leslie Harris, who heads the Shareholders Investment & Management Group, is now moving in on the complicated Burholme & Ford and Motor Rail situations. Burholme is already the subject of a DTI investigation. He said yesterday that he had been approached by a number of dissatisfied shareholders, and plans to be at both meetings—Motor Rail on December 27 and Burholme on December 30. He is now asking shareholders to give him their proxy votes and to vote against all the resolutions put up by the board.

Conoco issue

Conoco Ltd has issued a further 1,000 ordinary shares to Continental Oil International Finance Corporation for a total consideration of £10m in cash.

Mr David Montagu

Mr David Montagu, because of commitments as chairman of Orion Bank, has resigned as chairman and also from the boards of City & Commercial Investment Trust, Dualvest, Fundinvest, Montagu Boston Investment Trust, and Triplevest.



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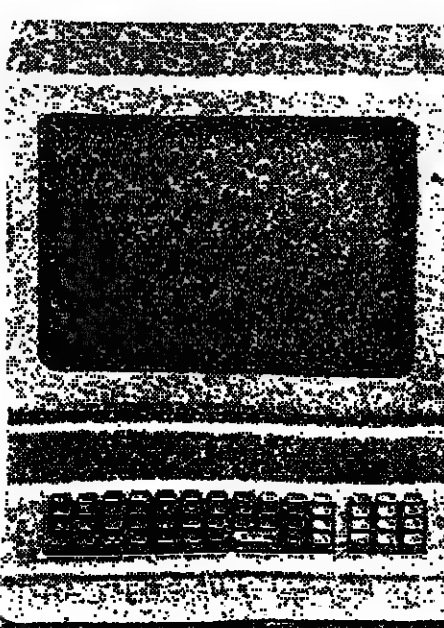
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US\$15,000,000 in 150,000 shares of \$4.25 Cumulative Preferred Stock of no par value are authorised of which 150,000 shares with a stated value of US\$100 each issued. US\$3,000,000 in 3,000,000 shares of Junior Preferred Stock of US\$1 value each are authorised but unissued. 77,299 shares of Common Stock and 94,729 shares of \$4.25 Cumulative Preferred Stock of the above issued capital were in treasury by Continental Can Company, Inc. at 21st November 1974.

The Council of The Stock Exchange in London has admitted to the Official List all 29,392,530 shares of Common Stock of Continental Can Company, Inc. in its at 21st November 1974. Particulars relating to Continental Can Company, Inc. available in the statistical services of Eitel Statistical Services Limited and Moody Services Limited, and copies of such particulars may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 31st December 1974 from:-

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40 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 5DE

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Garrard House
31 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7DX

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Hardy on the upswing following poor start

By Fred Wilson

Hire-purchase restrictions, the three-day week and controls on profit margins combined substantially to lower profits of Hardy & Co (Furnishers), the Newcastle-upon-Tyne-based group, in the first quarter. Although the board took measures to meet the situation the first half to August 10 records sizable falls in both profits and turnover. Brighter news is that trading has now improved and performance in the second half is expected to equal that of the same period of last year.

Group trading profits after depreciation and interest payable plummeted from £1.55m to £228,000 but, after bringing in

£786,000 from reserves for deferred profit and unearned charges, the taxable profit emerges with a 34 per cent fall from £1.5m to £1m. Turnover in the 28-week period declined from £14.8m to £12.5m, and earnings per ordinary and "A" ordinary share from 3.4p to 2.2p. The interim dividend is up from 16.5p to 2.3p. The board says the total dividend should be no less than last year's 4.13p, and adequately covered.

Meanwhile stocks at August 10 totalled £2.79m against £2.89m and debtors on hire-purchase agreements and amounts due from customers £14.76m (£16m). The bank overdraft has been cut from £2.67m a year ago to £1.57m.

Gallaher forecast up by £1m

A late upward revision of its profit forecast for this year from £32m to £33m has been made by Gallaher, the United Kingdom tobacco group which is a subsidiary of American Brands. This cuts the expected shortfall on last year from £2.5m to £1.5m.

This higher target emerges from the formal document relating to Brands' offer for the Gallaher minority and has come about both from later information now available and because of a price increase on Gallaher's tobacco products which took effect on November 27.

Under the scheme the 20 per cent of Gallaher shares not already owned by Brands will be cancelled in consideration for a cash payment of 160p for each ordinary and 60p for every preference.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank ..	12 1/2 %
FNBC ..	13 %
Hill Samuel ..	12 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co ..	12 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank ..	12 %
Midland Bank ..	12 %
Nat Westminster ..	12 %
Shenley Trust ..	12 1/2 %
20th Cent Bank ..	12 %
Williams & Glyn's ..	12 %

Members of Accepting Houses Committee.

7-day deposits in excess of £10,000 .. 11 1/2 %

10 1/2 % over £25,000 10 1/2 %

Burco Dean lower, but profit trend favourable

Although second half profits at Burco Dean, the domestic and industrial equipment and appliance group, showed a 52 per cent improvement on the poor first-half results, the full year's pre-tax profits come to £1.03m, against last year's record £1.36m.

The improved performance is being maintained and internal group forecasts are favourable. In view of economic uncertainties, forecasting for the full year is not possible, but the order book is satisfactory.

Turnover for the year is ahead from £10.7m to £11.7m, and although new profits are down from £93,000 to £93,000, the dividend is raised from 3.75p to 4.24p. Earnings a share are 7.7p against 11.76p.

The depressed first half profit of £409,000, against £666,000, is attributed by the board to teething during the launch of the new range of Eastern Kitchen Furniture.

The second half saw a review of trading policies and operating costs in both the domestic and industrial divisions, which enabled a push forward to be made with greater confidence.

While the market has already given one opinion of the proposed merger of Selection Trust and Consolidated African Selection Trust by marking down the value of ST shares to the extent that the bid is now worth only 73p, compared with the notional 82p on Monday evening, Mr Chester Beatty made it clear yesterday that CAST really had little option but to become fully integrated with ST.

In addition to CAST facing a decline in its West African income, Mr Beatty pointed out at the annual meeting that CAST had a heavy financing burden for its share of the development of the £120m Agnew nickel mine, and for a further hefty tranche for the other "developing mine" at Brouillon in Quebec. He reiterated, in reply to questions that he thought the terms were fair to both parties, although some shareholders advocated an all-paper bid on the basis of one ST for every four CAST, rather than the present two-for-nine and 45p cash.

But ahead of the documents due in late January, there seems little reason to improve the terms as ST shareholders are being faced with a drop of around 80p in asset value, and a dilution in earnings admittedly offset by an increase in group borrowing powers of £22m. On balance, the proposals must be regarded the optimum that the state of the CAST could really expect.

Mr D. F. Lyons resigns

For personal reasons, Mr D. F. Lyons has resigned from the boards of D. F. Lyons & Co except from the boards of Edward Wood & Co. As executive chairman of Edward Wood, Mr Lyons (and associates) aims at a growth policy with a view to eventual reorganisation. He has severed all connections with D. F. Lyons & Co.

not allow us to follow our relatively large participation.

As Chairman of both companies I was myself strongly in favour of a merger because it provides the best means of ensuring that the CAST shareholders have an appropriate continuing interest in the deposits and mines towards which CAST has contributed a considerable sum in risk capital.

But of course we had to ensure that the arrangement for combining the companies was handled scrupulously fairly.

Accordingly I am glad to say that two eminent merchant banks, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co Limited for CAST and Morgan Grenfell & Co Limited for Selection Trust, were able to evolve terms for a merger which each banker has recommended as being fair to all shareholders and which, subsequently, the boards of CAST and Selection Trust accepted and are recommending to the respective shareholders of the two companies.

As recorded in the report of the directors, CAST was formed just fifty years ago and with your approval we shall today score a century of dividends. CAST will remain in existence as a separate company and will, I am confident, continue to contribute substantially to the income of the Group.

In my annual statement I usually comment on the Company's activities but as you will shortly be receiving details of the proposed merger I will not do so today. I shall, of course, be glad to try to answer any question on the report and accounts and the review of interests which are in front of you.

CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE

We are beset on all sides by prophecies of gloom and doom, economic and social, and with world-wide inflation. While it is dangerous to pretend that problems do not exist, I feel that a surfeit of such forecasts is a sure recipe for over-reaction into deep pessimism. We are in the mining business—metals and minerals are the essentials of industrial society a fact of which we are all too well aware at this moment. With a steady nerve and realistic appreciation of the difficulties, and with technical staff both in the fields of mining exploration and development in whom we have complete confidence, I believe that the combined companies are well placed for a very bright future in the years to come.

Copper at lowest level since February, 1973

Although closing above the day's lows COPPER prices fell sharply and cash wire bars (down £11.50 at £55) was at its lowest level since February, 1973. The three months position dropped £10.75 to £57.5 a metric ton.

During the morning trading in closed general market and stop loss selling but a notable feature was heavy offerings by an influential quarter. This latest fall reflects the continued lack of consumer demand for marginal supplies in view of the generally pessimistic outlook for the international economy in 1975.

Recent moves by producers to curtail exports and, in some cases production, have been unable to counterbalance the fall in industrial demand.

Prices steadied somewhat in the afternoon on light covering induced by the early tone of the New York market, weaker sterling and a lack of follow through to the end of the day.

Afternoon—Cash wire bars, £55.50-56.50, three months, £56.50-57.50, three months, £57.50-58.50, three months, £58.50-59.50, three months, £59.50-60.50, three months, £60.50-61.50, three months, £61.50-62.50, three months, £62.50-63.50, three months, £63.50-64.50, three months, £64.50-65.50, three months, £65.50-66.50, three months, £66.50-67.50, three months, £67.50-68.50, three months, £68.50-69.50, three months, £69.50-70.50, three months, £70.50-71.50, three months, £71.50-72.50, three months, £72.50-73.50, three months, £73.50-74.50, three months, £74.50-75.50, three months, £75.50-76.50, three months, £76.50-77.50, three months, £77.50-78.50, three months, £78.50-79.50, three months, £79.50-80.50, three months, £80.50-81.50, three months, £81.50-82.50, three months, £82.50-83.50, three months, £83.50-84.50, three months, £84.50-85.50, three months, £85.50-86.50, three months, £86.50-87.50, three months, £87.50-88.50, three months, £88.50-89.50, three months, £89.50-90.50, three 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BELLS COTCH WHISKY

Before ye go

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts nervous

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. 5 Couango Day Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.
5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

FAST NEW ROADS & MODERN DOCKS

For information about industrial opportunities at Cwmbrion, contact: Cwmbrion Development Corporation, Cwmbrion, Gwent NP23 5SL. Tel: Cwmbrion 6777.

UNDS			Price Change			Price Change			Price Change			Price Change		
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(continued on page 28)

